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President to Leave for Tajikistan, Turkmenistan Tomorrow

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is to start his official visit to the republics of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan on Friday. The president's visit is in response to the previous visits by the Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov and Turkmenistan President Saparmurat Niyazov. (Contd on Pg. 14)

Anti-Taleban Fighters Seize Hill-Tops on Salang Highway

SALANG HIGHWAY, Afghanistan — Anti-Taleban forces succeeded in grabbing key posts overlooking this crucial highway during a day of heavy fighting, journalists saw Wednesday.

However, Taleban fighters claim they have held off a potentially crippling attack by foiling a mountain-top advance towards the Afghan capital which is 77 kilometers (48 miles) south of here.

(Contd on Pg.14)

Highlights

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Zionist authorities have demolished 18 Palestinian homes in East Bait-ul-Moqaddas since the start of the year and another 114 are threatened with destruction, a Palestinian official said Wednesday.

GAZA CITY — Palestinian and U.S. officials met Wednesday to pave the way for resumed security cooperation with Israel, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said.

MOSCOW — Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov has promised a 100,000-dollar reward for information leading to the discovery of four Russian journalists kidnapped in Chechnya two months ago, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported Wednesday.

The president also appealed to the families of the victims not to pay any ransom so as not to hamper an ongoing investigation on the March 3 kidnapping.

WASHINGTON — U.S. counter-espionage agents are hunting for a senior U.S. official suspected of spying for Israel, the *Washington Post* reported Wednesday.

LAHORE, PAKISTAN — Azim Tariq, head of Sipah-i-Sahaba, Pakistan's main Sunni extremist party, was arrested here Tuesday, police sources said.

Tariq, a deputy at the Punjab provincial assembly, was arrested under the maintenance of public order act the sources said without giving details of what charges he faces.

Velayati Confers With Lebanese, Syrian Officials

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived on Wednesday in Damascus where he was welcomed by his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shara.

HRAWI



ASSAD

VELAYATI

Velayati, who arrived from Lebanon, delivered to Syrian President Hafez al-Assad a message from Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on regional developments.

In Beirut on Tuesday, Velayati said Iran was holding talks with Lebanon and Syria to face the "atrocities and arrogance" of the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which has put the region in "a very difficult and dangerous situation."

On the second day of his stay in Beirut, Velayati held talks with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri on Wednesday.

Velayati extended an invitation from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi to the Prime Minister of Lebanon to attend the eighth summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) scheduled to be held in Tehran in December.

Hariri hoped that the upcoming OIC summit would be held in Tehran successfully with positive results for the world of Islam.

Velayati and Hariri reviewed Tehran-Beirut relations, regional developments and the problems of the world of Islam.

Velayati and Hariri also called for boosting of economic relations and joint cooperation of the two countries in international forums especially in the OIC and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

While in Beirut, Velayati gave President Elias Hrawi an invitation to attend an Islamic summit in (Contd on Pg. 14)

Iran Will Not Submit to Bullying Powers

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, here Wednesday said that under no circumstances Iranian nation will surrender to interventionist policies of arrogant powers.

Addressing the bereaved families of the martyred commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) and 36,000 martyrs of Tehran Province who took part in the Congress for the Commemoration of the martyrs, the Leader criticized those who try to appease the West through their startlements. He said that it is the West which should try to adapt its opinion to that of Islam. On the elections, he stressed that the Iranian nation will not cast vote for the candidates who may show even a bit of flexibility toward the U.S., Western interference, foreigners' political and cultural aggressions.

People will cast their votes for a candidate who maintains a hard stance against the U.S. and the expansionist policies of the arrogant powers.

The Leader touched on the enemies' attempts to establish a foothold in Iran's cultural and political affairs and said that the Iranian nation will hold fast to its Islamic principles and that the world should know that our nation follows up the enemies' attempt vigilantly and will resist the arrogant and interventionists policies.

The Iranian nation has shown that it will not retreat even a single step from its legitimate stance and that it will not trample down the basic principle of Islam to appease the enemies.

The Leader further alluded to the hue and cry, the Western mass media has lunched against the Islamic Republic of Iran, accusing her of violation of women rights, democracy, human rights, and supporting the liberation movements, saying that the U.S.-led arrogant powers themselves have no respect for human rights. They merely use these concepts as tools to crack down on those nations and governments that resist their bullying. For instance, when the Bathist regime of Iraq employed chemical weapons against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Kinkel: Germany Opposes Israel's Settlement Policies

LUXOR, Egypt — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel assured Egypt on Wednesday that his country opposes Israeli settlement policies, which have halted the Middle East peace process.

He made the remarks at a news conference after meeting for nearly two hours with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in this southern city, which is known for its Pharaonic temples and tombs.

Mubarak is due to travel to Germany May 23 for an official visit.

Egypt was angered that Germany abstained from voting in the UN General Assembly on April 25, when Arabs pushed through a resolution demanding a halt to Israeli construction of a new neighborhood for Jews in Arab East Bait-ul-Moqaddas by an overwhelming 134-3 vote.

Kinkel said the issue was a big part of his talks with Mubarak.

He said Germany considered the resolution put forward in the General Assembly as unbalanced, prompting the abstention. But, he added: "We are definitely against the settlement policies and we support the Arab stand."

He did not elaborate.

Foreign Minister Amr Mussa told the joint news conference with (Contd on Pg. 14)

Kashmir Hostages Killed by Separatist Group

SRINAGAR, India — Four Westerners seized by separatists in troubled Kashmir 21 months ago have been killed by their captors, a top militant told Indian interrogators, officials said Wednesday.

Abdul Mateen, a district commander of pro-Pakistan Harkat-ul-Ansar who was arrested following a gunbattle Monday, told Border Security Forces (BSF) that the four hostages were killed by the Al-Faran separatist group.

"All the four foreigners were killed and buried in the forest area of Wadwan, Magam Rakh in south Kashmir," Mateen, a Pakistan resident told the BSF officers.

But the BSF sources who were interrogating Mateen, said the militant could be misleading them as most of the details he had revealed were already known and he could be repeating hear-say.

The German Foreign Ministry said Wednesday it had no evidence the four Westerners were dead, and that it therefore was assuming they were still alive.

A spokeswoman said reports of the death of the four had not been confirmed. (AFP)

MAJLIS-E-AZA

Assalamu Alaika Ya Aba Abdillah Husain Mazloom. The annual Mourning ceremony in Urdu language for the Martyr of Karbala, Imam Husain (A.S.), are to be held at Hussainiyeh Samen-ul-Aimma. Timing: 21:30 Hrs., every night from Mohharam 1-12 (May 8-19). On Ashura, May 17th the majlis will start on 10:00 A.M. While the Sham-e-Ghariban ceremony will be held immediately after the evening prayers. Hojjatoleslam Seyed Husn-ul-Hasan of India will addressed the gatherings.

As usual arrangements have also been made for exclusive 'Majlis for Ladies' at the following address:

Block 41, Koche Ifteqar, Khayaban-e-Vali Asr, (before Motahhari St.) Timing: Mohharam 1-9, 11 & 12, 10:30 A.M., on Ashura 4 P.M. Haji Mohammad Husain Kanji.

Hussainiyeh Address: Khayaban-e-15th Khordad Gharbi, Koche Adalatkha, Koche Alazeghi.

Tel: 5625541

TEHRAN TIMES

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In the Name of God

They will swear to you by Allah when you return to them so that you may turn aside from them; so do turn aside from them; surely they are unclean and their abode is hell; a recompense for what they earned.

(HOLY QORAN) (9:95)

OPINION

World's Biggest Importer of Wheat!

According to figures published by the International Grains Council (IGC), Iran is emerging as the world's biggest importer of wheat in the current year.

The IGC estimates indicate that Iran's import of wheat amounts to 6.6 million tons of wheat and flour in the 12 months to June 30, 1997, while the figures for 1995-96 was 3.0 million.

If the estimates happen to be current, the officials concerned should give proper reasons for the increase in our wheat import over one year.

We are aware of the fact that decline in the current year's rainfall and earthquakes that devastated massive farmlands across the country have left negative impacts on our wheat production.

However, the doubling of wheat imports in one year is very much alarming, for dependance on foreign countries for food-stuff, especially a staple diet, is more dangerous than dependence on others for any other commodity.

Dependence on foreign countries for staple diet in certain cases can even lead to a political crisis in the country, threatening the whole Islamic system.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Amrollahi Elaborates on IAEO Achievements

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran has succeeded in production of radio pharmaceutics used in nuclear medicine, announced Head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) Reza Amrollahi here Tuesday.

Speaking at the first confab of Iranian scientists living abroad, Amrollahi said Iran is capable of producing industrial energetic forces and has provided its industries with 120,000 industrial radioactive forces during the First Five-Year Development Plan.

On achievement of IAEO, he said that the organization has set up 16 chemistry labs, labs for measuring radioactivity of radio pharmaceutics and a unit for production of iodine 123. Meanwhile it has established the Center for Research and Application of Radio Process in Yazd, Central Iran.

IAEO has also undertaken building the Second Tokamak Unit, he added.

According to Amrollahi, in the past 17 years the Center for Laser Research of IAEO has also succeeded in setting up the production line for laser sets and has produced 200 laser sets.

Velayati: Zionist Regime Has No Limit for Hegemonic Policies

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Zionist regime has no limit for its hegemonic and expansionist policies, the visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said in Beirut on Wednesday.

In an interview with IRNA correspondent, he added that countries which initially had some illusions about the compromise talks have now realized the aggressive nature of Israel.

Palestine, Lebanon and other regional Muslim states have been alarmed by the recent measures of the U.S. and Israel, Velayati said adding cooperation among regional countries to counter the Israeli conspiracy particularly its recent moves in the occupied territories is a must.

On Turkey-Israel military cooperation, he said that Lebanese and Egyptian officials have expressed their concern over the increased cooperation between the two countries.

Ankara-Tel Aviv military cooperation has compelled the regional countries to consider consolidating their ranks in order to confront plots of the U.S. and Israel. Therefore, the rightfulness

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Sooreh Film Festival Ends in Isfahan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Fourth Sooreh International Film and Video Film Festival concluded its work in Isfahan on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

At the closing ceremony, awards were presented to the best films.

The festival jury in a statement read at the closing session termed the festival as an appropriate forum for the young to display their talents.

Prizes including Golden Gazelle statuettes, plaques of honor and Azadi gold coins were awarded to the best works selected by the jury.

Ten films were selected for awards out of about 28 films from 14 countries participating in the festival. The countries included the Netherlands, the U.S., France, China, Switzerland, Australia, and Belgium.

20 video films were also chosen from among 269 video films which were screened at competition section of the festival.

Pakistani Air Force Commander Confers With Shahbazi



KHATAK

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Visiting Pakistani Air Force Commander Mohammad Abbas Khatak here on Tuesday met with Iranian Chief of Joint Staff General Ali Shahbazi.

During the visit Marshal Khatak pointed out that the people of Pakistan wholeheartedly love and respect the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that it is a source of pride for him to visit the Iranian officials.

Marshal Khatak further reiterated that Iran and Pakistan enjoy deep-rooted relations which are inspired from good neighborliness between the two countries.

He added that exchange of officials between the two countries would pave the way for upgrading Tehran-Islamabad relations in the future.

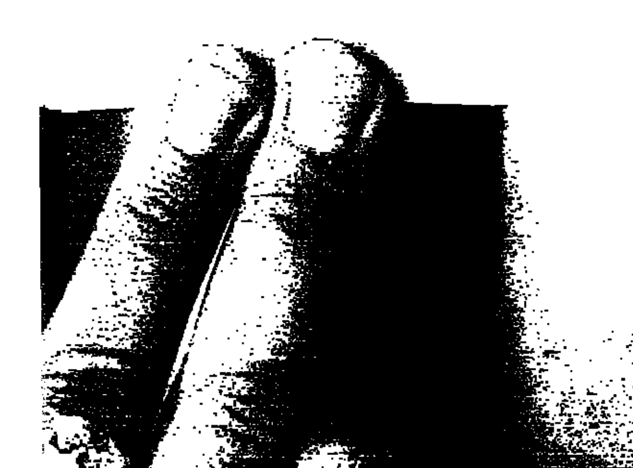
The Pakistani Air Force commander underlined that Islamic Republic of Iran has always been beside Pakistan, adding that Iran has always assisted his country in time of natural disasters such as flood and earthquakes.

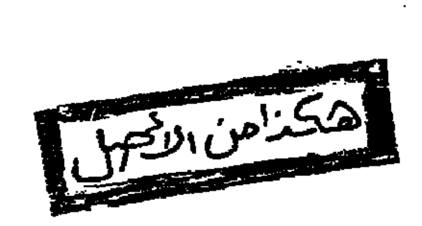
Referring to cultural, social and political commonalties between the two countries, Khatak said that his country is eager to share Iran's experience in all possible fields particularly in the area of aviation technology.



SHAHBAZI

The Iranian Chief of Joint Staff, for his part termed the outcome of his visit with Marshal Khatak as fruitful and called for development of bilateral relations between the two countries.





President Singles Out Special Diseases to Be Exempt From Premiums

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, in a speech yesterday marking the first anniversary of the establishment of the Foundation for Special Diseases, singled out sufferers of thalessemia, hemophilia, malfunctions of the kidney and cancer as being entitled to exemption from the payment of insurance premiums.

He said the expenses for the treatment and cure of these diseases are exhorbitant and most often out of the reach of the patients.

He also expressed the government's readiness to render any kind of cooperation required by charitable organizations in their activities to help these patients and also called on the people to render their assistance.

Int'l Seminar on Neurosurgery to Open in Bandar Anzali

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — An International Seminar on Neurosurgery (brain, nerves and spinal cord) is to be held in Bandar Anzali next year, the Secretary of the Federation of World Neurosurgeons announced on Tuesday.

The seminar, to be attended by world renown neurosurgeons, is the subject of talks in progress between the governor of Gilan Province and the federation in a bid to prepare the ground for the holding of the conference.

The secretary further said that certain measures for the accommodation of guests have already been taken but the exact date of the conference has not been set.

Children Under 5 to Be Vaccinated Against Polio Nationwide

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Children under five are to be vaccinated against polio at health care centres nationwide on May 9, said Director General of Health Education Department of the Health Ministry Shojaizadeh here on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

10th International Book Fair, 4th Press Festival Wind Up

TEHRAN (May 7) — Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri awards statuettes of honor to the *Tehran Times'* photographers Abbas Kowsari (R) and Abbas Takin (L) who were elected as the best photographers at the 4th Press Festival.

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — 10th Tehran International Book Fair and the 4th Press Festival wound up here Wednesday in presence of Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri.

The Majlis speaker accompanied by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mostafa Mirsalim, several deputy ministers and a group of Majlis representatives, inspected several foreign and domestic stands before the closing ceremony.

Nateq Nouri also awarded the plaque of honor to 34 best works of the press and several foreign and domestic publishers.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, minister of culture and Islamic guidance elaborated on the performance of the 10th Tehran International Book Fair and the 4th Press Festival and appreciated the relentless efforts made by the organizers of the fair and the festival.

Meanwhile Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance in charge of press and propagation, Ali Akbar Ash'ari said that the Ministry has so far granted 746 license for bringing out periodicals. He added that growing number of publications will produce positive impacts on the country's public culture.

Ash'ari, however, said that there are currently many financial problems facing the press in the country.

In conclusion, the Secretary of the 4th Press Festival, Ali Entezari, read the declaration of the festival's jury to the audience.

IRNA Stresses Neutrality in Coverage of Presidential Elections

TEHRAN — The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) Wednesday stressed importance of neutral, balanced and extensive news production and coverage of presidential elections in order to preserve and heighten the spirit of participation and national reconciliation in the country.

Deputy managing director for news affairs of IRNA, Hussein Montazer-Mo'oud added here Wednesday that within the framework of the decisions of IRNA's high council, the organization will continue the policy of balanced news coverage in the same way it did during the 5th Majlis elections.

He told the meeting of the editorial board of IRNA that the agency will try to avoid any commentaries or news analyses in favor of certain groups or factions.

Iran-Japan Relations Improving

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Managing Director of Iran-Japan Association Toru Nonaka in Tokyo Wednesday lauded the consolidating relations between his country and the Islamic Republic of Iran, an IRNA report said.

He expressed regret that inclination of Japanese press towards American media and absence of sufficient information on Iran prevent the Japanese people from getting acquainted with the Iranian culture.

By publishing a bulletin, offering Persian language courses and arranging group tours to Iran, the association has tried to provide information to the Japanese who are interested in Iranian civilization, he said.

Over 60 companies are members of the association set up 43 years ago.

Regime Has No ...onic Policies

...rs With Shahbaz...

BIDS

President Outlines Achievements of Isfahan Visit



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani outlined the achievement of his one-day visit to Isfahan upon arrival here yesterday.

President termed as "very interesting" inauguration of urban development projects in Isfahan and said Isfahan is pioneer in urban development in Iran's recent history.

In the course of his one-day trip to Isfahan president inugurated 'Nirou-Klor' Plant of Isfahan, the first phase of expansion plan at the Mobarakeh Steel Complex, Isfahan Coal Tar Refinery and a number of other projects.

He said at a ceremony on the same occasion that the industrial potential of Iran is very promising and added that Isfahan province of Iran is very brisk in that respect.

The projects that started operation during his visit to the province will supply basic materials to national industries.

On Tuesday, he also decorated two industry managers with national medals. Among the group of nine were ex-director of Mobarakeh Steel Complex Mohammad Hassan Erfanian, and his successor Ahmad-Ali Harati.

President Rafsanjani also supervised ground-picking operations for two cultural projects in Isfahan. They were the venue of the central library of the city and the second floor of the buildings at the Emam Square in the city. A budget allocation of 10.6 billion rials has already been made for the two projects.

The two projects are to be implemented under supervision of the local department of National Heritage Organization of Iran. In all, as may as 20 industrial projecs with a total budget allocation of 94 billion rials and an additional 10.2 million in dollars. Of those plants some belong to the public sector and others to private investors, in all creating 1,140 jobs for local people. The plants were mainly in the area of food production, automotive parts manufacture and cement and medical appliances.

IDB Approves Loan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Islamic Development Bank has approved a $-2-million grant for reconstruction of quake devastated educational centers and schools in Ardebil and Khorasan provinces of Iran, Iran's Ambassador to the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Sabah Zangeneh said on Wednesday.

Speaking to IRNA, he said that the allocation of the sum was ratified in the recent meeting of the excutive managers of IDB.

The sum is apart from the $300,000 already paid by the IDB as an emergency aid to Iran's Red Crescent Society to meet the requirements of the quake stricken areas.

Gharazi Addresses Telecom Seminar in Shanghai

Tehran Times Service





TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone (PTT), Mohammad Gharazi, stressed Wednesday in Shanghai that the progress in the communication network in the world has made an invaluable contribution to removing the differences between underdeveloped and developed countries.

Speaking at the opening session of the Seminar on Strategic Development of Telecommunications in Asia and the Pacific, Gharazi said that the world has entered a new era with the growth in telecommunication technology in recent decades, IRNA reported.

This swift progress has led to people making more correct decision and thereby ensuring a brighter future, he added.

Gharazi pointed out that while world communication has been effective in decision-making by world leaders, the development of this technology has put under serious question many of the events in the past like the production of atomic bombs and chemical weapons.

He emphasized that the development of this technology will in the future help people make a more logical approach to natural disasters and the difficulties arising out of it.

The seminar which is being held at the proposal of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), is being attended by ministers from 20 nations.

The APT is a regional organization set up in 1979 and is a subsidiary of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). At present, this union has 29 members, 33 affiliated members and 4 associated members.

The objectives of the APT includes scientific and technical studies in expanding telecommunications technology, encouraging the coordination of technical standards within the region and creating useful methods in using telecommunication services.

26th Meeting of Board of Directors of Asian Clearing Union Ends

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The 26th Asian Clearing Union (ACU) Board of Directors Meeting was held in the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Monday.

Mohsen Nourbakhsh Governor of the Central Bank of Iran, who is the chairman of the ACU for the year 1997, presided over the meeting.

Governors from Nepal Rastra Bank, and deputy governors from Bangladesh Bank, Reserve Bank of India, the Central Bank of Myanmar, the State Bank of Pakistan and Central Bank of Sri Lanka with some alternate directors from the member countries attended the meeting.

The acting general manager of the ACU and the representative of ESCAP were also pressent. at the meeting .

In his inaugural address, Nourbakhsh touched upon a number of important issues relating to the world economic situation as well as those relating to Iran. He also traced the brief history of the ACU and commented on its performance over the years. In particular he noted with satisfaction that there has not been a single default in the track record ACU over the last 21 years, which implied that the mechanism provided a safe and risk-free environment for settlement of intra regional trade. He felt that the fact needed to be given appropriate publicity which wold help in expansion of the intra — ACU trade and attracting new members to the union.

While referring to the issue of enlargement of the membership of the ACU, he noted the positive outcome of the recent initiatives and stressed on the need to contrinue such efforts in the future.

Nourbakhsh pointed out that some CIS countries have concicuded trilateral payment agreements with Iran and suggested that upon successful operation of these agreements, their integration with the ACU may possible.

The issue of expansion of the membership of the ACU was thereafter disussed in detail and certain potential members were identified. It was decided that the future chairman of the ACU would continue the efforts to convince the potential members, of the advantages of joining the ACU and should disparry the apprehensions which some of the potential members might have.

The general manager presented the annual report which highilghted the member countries economic performances, the volume of intra-ACU trade, and the debtor and creditor positions of individual members.

The report indicated an increase of 17 percent in the transaction during 1996 as compared to the previous year.

The board decided that for each annual board meenting a topic which is of common interest and concern to the central banks, for example monetary policy, balance of payments, exchange rate arrrangements ect., may be selected for discussion and exchange of experiences of the member countries. For the annual meeting to be held in 1998, the subject of



"balance of payments" was selected.

The governors of State Bank of Pakistan and Nepal Rastra Bank were selected as chairman and vice chairman of the ACU respectively, for the year 1998.

First Phase of Imam Khomeini International Airport Operational Next Year

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Official in charge of the Imam Khomeini International Airport project, Amir Hossein Tavakkoli, here on Wednesday said that the first phase of the project will be operational by May 1998. Nearly 4.5 million air passengers would travel to and from the airport annually once the first phase of the project goes on stream.

Speaking at a press conference, Tavakkoli said that the project is being backed financially by the Ministry of Roads and Transportation.

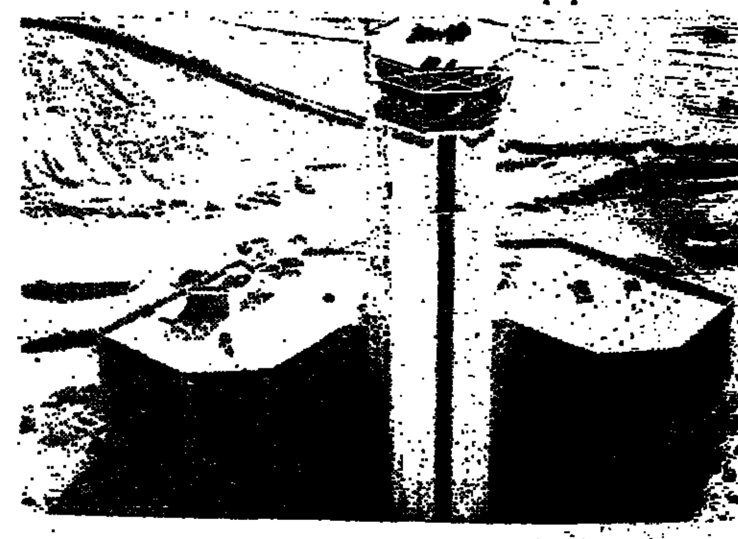
He said that the total costs of the project was initially estimated to be $70 million, however, he added that through untiring efforts of local experts, the figure is reduced to $3 million.

Elaborating on the construction status of the project, Tavakkoli said that the construction works of the project started in April 1996, adding that remarkable progress has been made within a short period since the start of the works.

Tavakkoli noted that the final nominal capacity of the airport's passenger handling will reach to 40 million passengers per year. He further said that the airport will be expanded in its capacity in further phases through revenues out of the first phase operation.

Referring to the importance of the airport at international level, Tavakkoli said that the airport is the most appropriate place for linking the country to eastern and western parts of the world.

He concluded by saying that Imam Khomeini International Airport enjoys all world-class facilities and equipment.



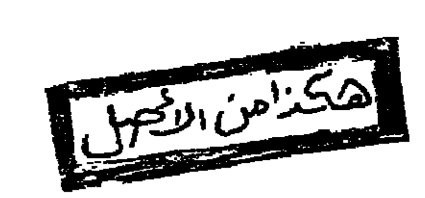
A view of control tower of Imam Khomeini International Airport

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Wednesday, May 7, 1997.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,364	1,372	2,342	2,354
Austria	schilling	144	145	247	248
Belgium	(100) francs	4,902	4,930	8,416	8,458
Canada	dollar	1,268	1,276	2,177	2,188
Denmark	krone	265	267	456	458
France	franc	299	301	514	517
Germany	mark	1,011	1,016	1,735	1,743
Holland	guilder	898	903	1,542	1,549
Italy	(100) liras	102	103	175	176
Japan	(100) yen	1,388	1,396	2,283	2,395
Sweden	krone	221	223	380	382
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,859	2,876	4909	4,932
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015





هكذا من الأصل

TEHRAN TIMES

Kasparov in Awe of Chess-Playing Computer

NEW YORK — World chess champion Garry Kasparov has called supercomputer Deep Blue an "alien opponent" but on Tuesday he said it was playing like a god.

The best player in the history of the ancient game has suffered the double embarassment of needlessly resigning to the IBM system on Sunday and then being held to a draw in Tuesday's third game of their six-game rematch despite the advantage of the white pieces.

"The scientists are saying that Deep Blue is only calculating, but it has showed signs of intelligence," said Kasparov, who had no advance information on his opponent and has labeled it alien.

The $1.1 million match is tied at 1-1/2 points each and Kasparov will have to play with the black pieces in two out of the three remaining games. One point is awarded for a win and a 1/2 point for a draw. Playing with white has the advantage of the first move, much like holding serve in tennis.

The revelation that the Russian gave up on Sunday in what was in fact a drawn position, dominated and overshadowed the third game of the contest, a closely fought draw out of an English opening that ended with Deep Blue's programers accepting Kasparov's draw offer after almost 4-1/2 hours at the board.

"It reminds me of the famous goal that Maradona scored against England in 86. He said it was 'the hand of God'," stated Kasparov, referring to a goal one of the world's greatest soccer players, Diego Maradona of Argentina, scored in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

Maradona illegally used his hand to punch the ball into the net



NEW YORK, United States (May 6): World chess champion Gary Kasparov ponders his next move in New York in third game against the IBM Deep Blue computer. Kasparov will play a total of six games against the computer. The match is tied at one win each.

(AFP PHOTO)

but the infraction was not spotted by the referee and the goal counted.

"Suddenly you know it played like a god for one particular moment (in the second game)," an animated Kasparov told hundreds of spectators after Tuesday's game. It was unclear whether he was accusing the IBM team of cheating or just awed by the computer's performance.

The Russian's remarkable and rare oversight was a reminder to human players that their emotions can be a handicap in clashes with machines.

Several leading grandmasters admitted that they too had initially missed the continuation that would have saved the day for Kasparov. It was left to an untitled player in an Internet chat room to claim the credit for unlocking the problem.

Deep Blue's programers also said it had not calculated the moves correctly during the game, something Kasparov described as "very human from my point of view."

Grandmasters intensely debated how the strongest player in chess history overlooked a sequence of moves that would have forced a draw Sunday and maintained his lead in the match.

Instead, the 34-year-old Russian resigned the position after Deep Blue's 45th move and the match was tied at one win each. Kasparov defeated the machine Saturday in the first game.

Chess experts, almost without exception described Sunday's game as the best performance ever by a computer, likening it to the style of top human players.

Kasparov was forced by Deep Blue to defend with his black pieces for almost four hours and looked tired and demoralized.

"The computer has an advantage, it does not have this body of emotions. We humans get depressed," grandmaster Yasser Seirawan of the United States said. "The computer doesn't get depressed."

Subsequent analysis showed that Kasparov could have played a series of moves to force what is known in chess as "perpetual check" — one player repeatedly attacking his opponent's king, ensuring none of his other pieces can make further moves and thus a draw is the only outcome.

The analysis began within hours of the game ending in "chat rooms" run by the Internet Chess Club. Surprisingly, it was an untitled player who first suggested the drawing sequence, according to Internet Chess Club director Gregory Belmont.

(Reuter)

Bulls 100, Hawks 97

CHICAGO — The Chicago Bulls lost their cool. They lost Dennis Rodman, too. They didn't lose the game, however, thanks to Scottie Pippen and Michael Jordan.

Pippen capped a 29-point game by making a go-ahead 3-pointer with 43.9 seconds left and Jordan scored 34 points Tuesday night as Chicago opened the Eastern Conference semifinals with a 100-97 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

The defending NBA champions rallied from a 16-point third-quarter deficit despite Rodman's ejection for two technical fouls. Toni Kukoc also was assessed a technical, and the Bulls spent a good chunk of the game either whining to the officials or trying to calm each other down.

But not all the Bulls lost their composure.

Pippen's sixth 3-pointer of the game, after taking a handoff from Luc Longley and curling around a Longley pick, snapped a 97-all tie and finished the scoring.

The Hawks couldn't take advantage of Longley's two missed free throws with 34.5 seconds left and Jordan's missed layup with 10 seconds to go as Mookie Blaylock spoiled an otherwise outstanding individual performance.

Blaylock, who had career playoff highs with 31 points and 12 rebounds, badly missed a 3-pointer with about 35 seconds left, stepped out of bounds after taking an inbounds pass with 32 seconds to go and shot an airball on a 3-point attempt at the buzzer.

Chicago will play host for game 2 Thursday before the best-of-7 series shifts to Atlanta. (Reuter)



SALT LAKE CITY, UT, United States (May 6): Greg Ostertag of the Utah Jazz comes down on top of Shaquille O'Neal of the Los Angeles Lakers during game two of their Western Conference Semifinal series at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

(AFP PHOTO)

Manchester United Clinches League Title Again

LONDON — Manchester United clinched its fourth league title in five seasons Tuesday when second-place Liverpool lost at Wimbledon and Newcastle could only manage a tie at West Ham.

Alex Ferguson's team won the title with two games to spare and will celebrate collecting the trophy yet again when it hosts Newcastle at Old Trafford on Thursday.

Liverpool's 2-1 loss left it with 67 points with only one game to play while Newcastle, 64 from 36 after a 0-0 tie, has no chance of catching the Reds, who have 71 from 36.

The 55-year-old manager, who also took Aberdeen to a Cup Winners' Cup title back in 1983, said the latest Premier League title was even better than the other three.

"It does get better because you have to live up to such expectations. Every season that comes along the demands have to be greater.

"We have had the champions cup to contend with and they coped with that very well and they managed to maintain a challenge in the league as well."

Wimbledon and West Ham brought the title home to United.

In a low-quality game at Selhurst Park, Wimbledon stifled Liverpool's smooth, close-passing game and created the better openings.

Two minutes half time, the Liverpool defenders and goalkeeper David James were caught out by a simple set piece, Neal Ardley's left wing free kick floating over the heads of three Liverpool men and Jason Euell unchallenged as his downward header beat the stranded and badly positioned goalkeeper.

Ten minutes into the second half, Ardley was creator again with a eight wing cross which Dean Holdsworth glanced past James from 12 yards.

Substitute Michael Owen score a 74th minute reply for Liverpool but Roy Evans' team now will have to be satisfied with trying to gain second place which now means a spot in the European Champions Cup. Third-place Arsenal is two points behind Liverpool so it looks like a three-team battle for second place.

Newcastle, which still has two games to play, needed a victory at Upton Park to stay in contention but created few chances before half time. (AP)

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

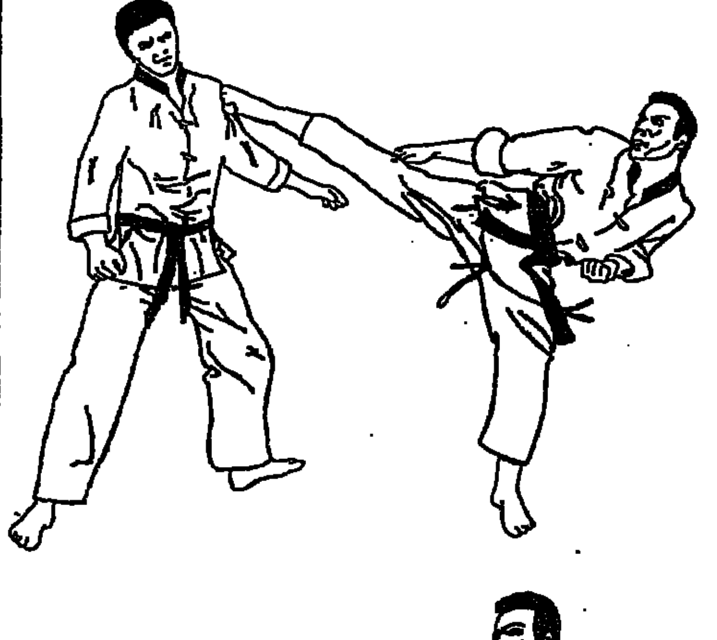
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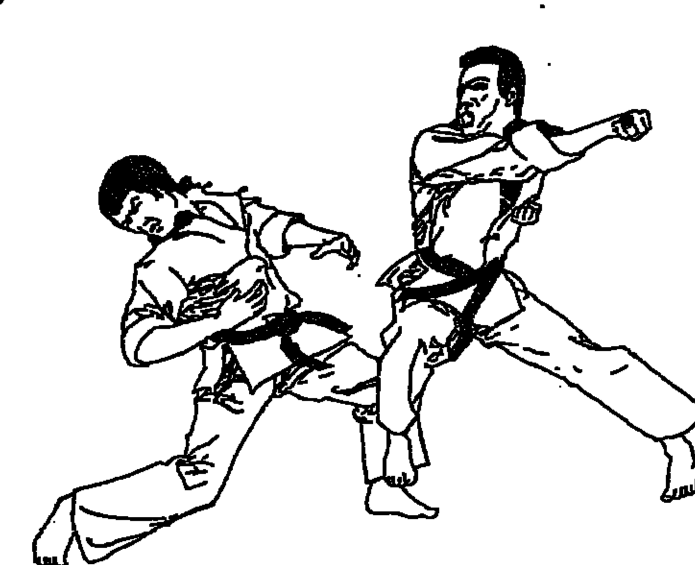
Skills of Kung Fu

(Part 38)

The first principle while practicing with a punching bag is to change your place by footwork and to be in a good defensive position. You should give the punching bag different blows including side kicks. Never push it and never blow it mildly and try to make attacks on it. To many, the power of kick and fist depends on intensity of blowing. But on the contrary, it depends on your body's position as well as where and when you blow or kick. The punching bag is very useful for strengthening the feet's moves and combined fists. Of course, you'd better give it blows and kicks harmoniously and regularly. Practice with the punching bag as if it is a real rival. You can also practice striking fists and rotating kicks through using mitt (boxing-glove). Practicing with mitt gives you alertness and skill and teaches you not to let your rival know about your plan.

The perfect (noncontrolling) challenge is very similar to a real fighting but it enjoys some limitations such as putting on supporting gloves, protective helmet and not using some of the techniques. At present, the perfect challenge is considered as the best and most practical method for training and practicing. One who learns martial arts without engaging in a fight is just like a person who learns swimming without touching water.





Modern martial arts have also some deficiencies. In boxing, the fighters due to the lack of safety rules are usually brutal and stone-heart. Those who participate in Eastern martial arts contests like karate competitions put great emphasis on prohibition of direct blows and they believe that the fighter should stop his blows or kicks a few inches away from the opponent.

Engaging in a real challenge, you have to benefit from all factors. For instance, distancing from the rival is considered a defensive tactic and the attacking and escaping techniques in a close struggle are the other important factors.

The art of challenge means the abilities, intelligence of a person regarding movements and techniques, i.e. to attack and not to be attacked.

In kung fu, like other sports, a good offense is the best defense. In other words, you have to collapse your opponent through-direct lightning fists and fast kicks of front leg. To do so, you should firstly deceive him and then perform some techniques to confuse him and finally bombard him with your fists and kicks in a way that you can easily plan your next movements.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

VELAYATI...

Tehran in December. He presented a similar invitation to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak earlier in the week.

Both presidents accepted the invitations, as did Assad during a Velayati visit to Damascus last month.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafic Hariri will pay an official visit to Tehran in June, Velayati said after meeting Hariri on Wednesday.

"We handed him an invitation...to visit Tehran before the end of June," Velayati told reporters.

Hariri accepted this and another invitation from Iranian President Rafsanjani to attend an Islamic summit in Tehran in December, he added.

Velayati ended his brief visit to Beirut after meeting Hariri and drove back to Damascus en route for Yemen on the last leg of a regional tour.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival in Damascus on Wednesday, the Iranian foreign minister said that the brotherly relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria are further growing.

Due to the recent developments in the Middle East region, Iran and Syria as two powerful regional states should strengthen cooperation and maintain consultations, he said.



BEIRUT, Lebanon (May 6): Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati (L) speaks to reporters after his meeting with Lebanese counterpart Fares Boueiz (R) in Beirut. Velayati arrived in Beirut to discuss with Lebanese officials the Middle East peace process and to hand Lebanese President an invitation to attend the ordinary session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference slated for next December in Tehran. (AFP PHOTO)

Netanyahu Reaffirms Commitment to Settlement Growth

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reaffirmed Wednesday his "clear policy" of expanding Jewish settlements as U.S. mediator Dennis Ross arrived to try and repair the damage done to the peace process by settler activity in Palestinian areas.

At a Cabinet meeting, Netanyahu had to face down an uprising by several far-right ministers furious over a government clampdown on unauthorized expansion of two West Bank settlements.

The ministers sharply criticized Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai for ordering the destruction Tuesday of three houses being built outside the northern settlement of Yizhar.

But Netanyahu told the ministers not to blow the Yizhar incident out of proportion, insisting his government has a "clear policy of strengthening settlements," Israel radio reported.

Ross was due to meet with Netanyahu late Wednesday and Arafat on Thursday in a new effort to revive the negotiations. (AFP)

Bosnian Serb Found Guilty of Crimes Against Humanity

THE HAGUE — A UN war crimes tribunal in its first verdict Wednesday found Bosnian Serb Dusko Tadic guilty of crimes against humanity and torture but acquitted him of murdering Muslims at prison camps.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, one year to the day the trial started, found Tadic guilty of 11 counts related to the persecution and beating of Muslims held at detention camps in the northwest Prijedor region between May and December 1992.

He was, however, found not guilty of counts charging him with 13 murders, five beatings, abuse of prisoners and inhumane acts including the sexual mutilation of one prisoner.

Tadic, 41, who had pleaded not guilty to the 31 counts against him, showed no emotion as the verdict was read by presiding U.S. judge Gabrielle Kirk Mcdonald.

His attorney Milan Vujin said he would appeal the decision.

Mcdonald ordered that he remain in custody pending his sentencing on July 1 and his appeal. He faces up to life in prison. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 2)

OPINION ...

We do not intend to embark on an academic discussion about the stages and models of development here. However it is an established fact that self-sufficiency or self-reliance in agriculture sector is indispensable for the developing countries if they are determined to preserve their political independence in today's interdependent world.

Dependence on foreign countries makes the dependent country vulnerable to blackmail and sanctions diplomacy. Unfortunately, the U.S. has created a precedence in the post-Cold War era which is going to leave a devastative impact on free trade among the nations. Sanctions diplomacy and legitimizing the sanctions through hijacking the United Nations is a serious threat to the developing countries.

If we are not in a position to fill up the stomachs of our people, we are doomed to face crisis after crisis. Therefore, we should bear in mind that in our development plans we pay due attention to our agriculture sector.

If we become self-reliant in agriculture produce, we are sure we can develop our industry. If we depend on others for filling up our stomachs, others can create problems for us, hindering our development process.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

ANTI...

"We have to be honest and say that we have lost some ground in the attack," a Taleban frontline gunner conceded, before firing a salvo of rockets at enemy posts.

The strategic Salang Highway links Kabul with northern Afghanistan and Central Asia, but its close proximity to a key opposition valley stronghold means Taleban advances here have so far been repelled.

It is unclear how much ground Taleban fighters have lost in the attack, which began in the early hours of Tuesday, but frontline soldiers added that a southern part of the highway had also fallen.

"We have lost some ground on the road itself, but I don't know how much: Maybe around four or five kilometers," the gunner added.

A deputy militia commander here only conceded losing "a few spotter posts," but denied the loss of any part of the road itself to the coalition of northern warlord general Abdul Rashid Dostam and the ex-government.

The Taleban militia, which sieged Kabul in September last year, has been trying to advance north through the Salang Highway. (AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

PRESIDENT...

On the first leg of his two-nation tour, the president, heading a high-ranking political-economic delegation, is to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues and ways to establish peace and stability in Tajikistan with Tajik authorities.

During his stay in Ashkhabad, the capital city of Turkmenistan, President Rafsanjani will attend the extraordinary session of heads of state of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). He is also expected to sign letters of understanding on economic, trade and technological cooperation between the two countries.

Expert delegations from Iran and Tajikistan started their first round of talks in Dushanbe on Wednesday to make preparations for the imminent visit of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to Tajikistan and to prepare documents on mutual cooperation.

Tajik Minister of Economy and Foreign Economic Relations Tofte Boy Mosharov, calling President Rafsanjani's visit as 'highly significant' expressed hope that cooperation and relations between Tehran and Dushanbe would further expand in the future.

Mosharov lauded Iran for its mediation to settle disputes between the Tajik government and opposition groups.

The visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs and head of the Iranian delegation Mahmoud Vaezi, enumerated the cultural bonds between Iran and Tajikistan and expressed hope that peace and calm would return to Tajikistan as soon as possible.

Based on agreements reached between the two sides at the meeting, Iran and Tajikistan would expand their cooperation in the fields of commerce and trade, energy, industries, transportation, culture and science, agriculture, processing industries and banking.

The Iranian president is to start his three-day state visit to Tajikistan on Friday.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

IRAN...

course of the imposed war (1980-88) the U.S. omitted Iraq from the list of countries sponsoring terrorism in order to assist it to carry out its plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Since the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iranian Muslim women have found their real value and identity. Although they have been practically participating in various cultural, social and political activities, the West has orchestrated smear campaigns against Iran claiming that women's rights are being overlooked in Iran.

The Leader went on saying that the arrogant powers are bent on to suppress every resistance, adding that no one should be frightened by them. The Leader further stressed that flexibility towards the enemies will be a blunder and no one should make remarks to appease the enemies.

The West should rectify its approach to the issues of human rights, freedom, and democracy, he underlined.

Lauding the IRGC's initiative to commemorate the martyrs of the sacred defense, he called on all the state organs to commemorate the martyrs and preserve the valuable culture of martyrdom.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

KINKEL...

Kinkel that "the minister's arrival, the letters sent and his assurance that Germany opposes the settlement policies has certainly lessened the effect of this issue."

Mussa was adamant that new Israeli settlements were not compatible with peace.

"If Mr. Netanyahu wants to continue with the settlements, then peace cannot continue with settlements - or settlements with negotiations - at the same time," Mussa said.

Kinkel also told reporters that Germany tried to take a balanced approach to the Middle East.

Kinkel declined to answer questions about Iran. (AP)

(Contd From Pg. 2)

VELAYATI...

of stands adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran is proven, he said.

The Iranian foreign minister who arrived in Beirut on Tuesday warned the Islamic countries not to compromise with the Zionist regime. He added that regional leaders are now disappointed with the future of the so-called peace talks.

On whether there will be a fundamental change in Tehran-Cairo relations following his visit to Egypt, Velayati noted that the international, scientific, economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries has started long ago and the trend will continue.

Involvement of Egypt in construction of a sugar cane factory in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan Province is one area of cooperation between the two countries, he said adding that a $150-million agreement has been signed.

Furthermore bilateral cultural and scientific cooperation are growing and a letter of understanding has been signed between Iran's Allameh Tabatabaei University and Cairo's Ein ul-Shams University, he said.

Tehran-Cairo relations at international fora including the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) have had an upward trend, Velayati stressed adding that presence of Egypt in the next OIC summit meeting in Tehran in December will have great impact on further strengthening of Iran-Egypt relations.

After arrival in Beirut Tuesday afternoon, Velayati delivered a message from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani for President Elias Hrawi, inviting him to attend the OIC summit meeting. The Iranian foreign minister will then proceed to Yemen and Syria on the third and fourth leg of his four-nation tour.

(Contd From Pg. 7)

HIGH...

for a multivitamin combination, said supplements have been found to reduce the incidence and duration of infection.

"In North America, a year's supply of micro-nutrient supplementation costs less than three visits to a physician and much less than hospitalization for one day... and may be cost-effective preventive intervention in old age." (Reuter)

(Contd from Pg. 9)

ZAIRE ....

Some tried to practise their English. Another was pleased that in one of the journalists he had found somebody who spoke Arabic. A third gratefully read a French newspaper he found in one of the cars, taking care to hand it back when he had finished.

They appeared unconcerned by the rebel advance toward Kinshasa, or by Kabila's threat that he could be in the capital's suburbs in three days.

After four hours, the colonel arrived and apologized for the inconvenience.

You're welcome to come back and report on the real situation at the front, he said, maybe even with a military escort to ease your way through the roadblocks, but please, get permission first. (AFP)

(Contd. From Pg. 11)

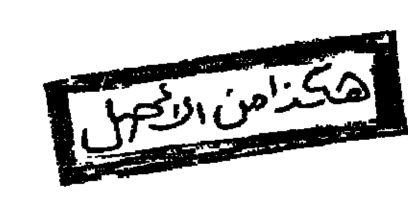
THE FUTURE...

what they were told).

But the current phenomenon is different because the new inter-racial links are voluntary and equal. The most significant bit of data about the new inter-marriage is this: white American women who have served in the U.S. armed forces are SEVEN times more likely to marry black American males than civilian white women.

Why? In the U.S. armed forces, almost uniquely in American society, a very large minority of blacks lives and works alongside other races in a genuinely non-racist institution. Since many blacks are long-service professionals, they also have high status. And that is all it takes to overcome the centuries of prejudice.

It was never really about color. It was always about power. People like Tiger Woods, born of inter-racial relationships in a society with egalitarian values, will not submit to being sorted by the shade of their skins. It will take another generation or two, but the old racist games are over — and the future is light brown.



Khatami Talks to University Students



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN—Candidate in the 7th presidential election, Hojjatoleslam Seyed Mohammad Khatami, attending a question-and-answer session at the Tehran University Mosque answered questions posed by the university's students.

Asked about a statement he once uttered to this effect: "The development path passes through the West," he explained by saying that the West is moving towards the path of humanism. By this he meant "that man is the main axis upon which material life develops but in Islam we are of the veiw that reason is next in importance to revelation and is capable of constructing human lives."

Further, he said that our basic difference with the West is in our attitudes, but other than this "all aspects of development, including social, political, economic and cultural, have originated from the West."

By expressing these views he said he intended to convey the idea that development will not be materialized without having a proper understanding of the West, i.e., knowing about its advantages and disadvantages.

"We cannot confront the West blindly. We should have knowledge about the issues such as liberalism, facism, capitalism in order to have a basis on which to judge them," Khatami said.

He said the salvation of Iranian society lies in the possession of two kinds of situations. "We should have a critic for the West and modernization and another for tradition. We should recognize all the positive and negative aspects of the two basic issues posed by Westernization and tradition (because) without having enough understanding of both we can neither reject nor accept either. He said that such understanding of their real nature is a must and only then should we deal with ourselves and search ourselves from the depths of our being.

"Therefore, an understanding of the West, tradition and ourselves will help save this society. If we can do this, we can have the power to construct the country," Khatami said.

Touching on the issue of freedom of expression, he said that after religion freedom is the subject which human beings have invested a lot in terms of energy.

"Freedom gives man its identity, but it has always been trampled upon by arrogant powers," he said.

He added that restrictions on freedom of expression does not mean imposing a ban on thinking "because one can restrict human actuations but cannot control what is in his mind."

"Unreasonable restrictions on the freedom will make it an undergound issue which will appear in the shape of uprisings, rebellion and chaos." He said that Islam and the Constitution of the Islamic Republic highlights the principle of freedom of expression but within certain borders, for "one should move within a determined framework."

He explained that an individual's freedom should not adversely affect that of another person's freedom because government is presumed to safeguard the legitimate freedoms of all its citizens.

On the subject of the press, he said that certain allegations in which one of the dailies quoted the names of his possible cabinet ministers.

He said: "I am very interested in a dynamic press but at the same time oppose some of its tactics such as raising hue and cry over certain issues; neither am I for the suppression of the press or the use violent treatment to curtail their functions. I believe in an intellectual encounter."

He cited the publication of the news story already mentioned earlier and that the said publication by the weekly was baseless. Since the result of the election is not clear, I am not in a position to elaborate on the issue but when I find it necessary I myself will disclose my cabinet ministers."

Asked whether he will appoint Mir Hussein Mousavi as the first vice-president if he wins the election, Khatami said: "Mousavi is a national asset and which the government of the Islamic Republic can profit much in terms of his services. I myself have used his experiences and have held consultaions with him and will respect his viewpoints in the future."

Elabroating on the issue of cultural influences, Khatami said: "I myself believe that a cultural assault is being launched against us and take this seriously but one should admit that in the contemporay world in which countries are highly interdependent, digital, computer and satellite borders are jokes. At present pressure is made to bear on Iran from technologically advanced countries."

He added that the important point is to understand the world and find our place in this modern world. If we have a rich and powerful culture any cultural attack by the enemy will be futile.

Elaborating on his policies during his tenure as minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Khatami said: "I vigorously believe that culture should be made to flourish and, during my tenure and, in general, during the 18 years of the revolution the progress in the cultural arena has been conspicuous when we compare the culture prevailing in the pre-revolution period and that in the post-revolution period, a difference even Westerners have confirmed."

Khatami elaborated by saying that the system prevailing in this country does not cater to only "one taste." He said that different tastes are allowed to flourish as long as they conform with the law, adding that "in the cultural arena it is not necessary to be orthodox."

In answer to a question on economic policies, the presidential advisor said the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes three branches of government, the cooperatives and the private sector which play separate roles in shaping the country's economic policies.

He said he finds these different institutions appealing and pleasing.

"Our group holds that capital and owners of capital are essential in any economy but it is rigorously opposed to capitalism in the sense that capital and capitalist elements are made to work uncontrolled. The three sectors are each respected and have their place in the constitution, but the question of which should be more powerful differs with the passing of time," he said.

He pointed to recent economic trends which make management the focal point of economic strength which for many years was enjoyed by capital or those who owned capital.

"The progress of a society depends on the existence of a scientific, strong, efficient and modern management that is thoroughly well-informed. One of the responsibilities of government at present is to produce competent and efficient managers with the aforesaid qualifications in the three branches of government, cooperatives and private sectors," Khatami said.

In response to a question as to how he sees the National Front, which was excommunicated by the late Imam Khomeini, as well as the Freedom Movement which was banned from occupying any post in the government in a letter written by Imam Khomeini to Hojjatoleslam Mohtashemi who was then serving as interior minister, Khatami said: "Generally speaking, one of the popular misconceptions entertained by our society is that the people do not have a say in the formation of political parties and that they do not represent the people's will and desires," adding that it is generally believed foreign hands have played a role in their creation and continued existence. "But, the fact is, parties within the framework of law represent the natural needs and demands of people," Khatami said.

Khatami added that there is a noticeable difference between certain parties or groups. "One of them at present has no existence and clear activity...talking about this party is therefore basically ruled out. The other, however, wants to be active within the framework of the system and law. A citizen of this system has rights and reciprocal obligations, and the system should meet his legitimate demands," he continued.

Khatamai stressed that there is a fundamental difference between his stands, both present and past, with existing views upheld by others, and that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution determines the general policies of the system.

"The people, first of all, heed the words of the late Imam and, secondly, turn to the words of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution to determine which policy or side to support, " he concluded.

Why Rapid Growth Is Good for You

By Gwynne Dyer
Tehran Times Service

LONDON — Can ANYBODY modernize without going through the horrors that Europe went through?

On the surface, it looks good. The number of people living in democratic countries has more than doubled around the world in the past fifteen years. Over half the people in the 'Third World' live in countries where the economy is growing at least twice as fast as in the 'mature' industrialized countries. And the scale and frequency of wars are down everywhere except in Central Africa.

Most of the bigger developed countries have waded through the deeper reaches of hell on their way to the industrial promised land. Civil and international wars; rabid nationalism, racism, and even fascism; massacres, pogroms, and purges: it was modernizing, industrializing Europe that gave us concepts like 'total war' and 'genocide'.

Lots of people believe that history is bound to repeat itself. The strategists who want to push NATO's boundaries east alomst to the Russian border are of that persuasion. So are the people in Southeast Asia who are working (much more discreetly) to develop a collective regional strategy against Chinese 'expansionism'.

Historical analogies influence our actions even when we are not consciously aware of them. In this case, I don't think they are relevant but all you have to do is to juxtapose a newly industrializing country and an older one.

South Korea, now 45 million people, began to grow very fast after the end of the Korean War in 1953.

At that time, South Korea's per capita income was about the same as in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh): i.e., as low as mainland Asia gets. Now, its per capita income is in the same range as Spain or the Czech Republic. And in all that four-decade process, there was only one major outbreak of killing, at Kwangju in 1988. The transition to democracy, when it finally came, was almost entirely non-violent.

France (55 million people) began to modernize in the years leading up to the French Revolution of 1789.

In the two centuries between then and now, the casualties from street-fighting in Paris have been in the tens of thousands at least five times. There have been coups and conspiracies, outbreaks of both 'red' and 'white' terror, and endless wars. French history is horrendous.

So what accounts for the difference? I suspect that it was the relative speed at which the economies grew.

In French (and in almost all of industrializing Europe), economic growth averaged two percent or less for all of the 19th century and most of the 20th. After 200 years, the magic of compound interest has now made France and its neighbors extremely rich, but their climb out of a poverty that made today's Bangladesh look like paradise was a long, bitter process in which entire generations were sacrificed.

It was a slow business because they had to invent the entire industialized world as they went along: not just the machines, but the institutions, processes and values that would make it all work. Nobody had ever travelled this road before, so it took some time.

Why did slow growth mean wars, coups, genocides, revolutions, and all the other horrors that disfgure the past two centuries of European history? Because if economic growth is under two percent a year, there is never enough to go around.

Economic change always brings social and political change in its wake. In slow-growing Europe in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the people on top never felt secure enough economically to share the wealth voluntarily. They saw modernization as a zero-sum game in which every advance for the poor was a loss for them.

So they fought democratization and its usual companion, income redistribution, tooth and nail. When democracy happened anyway, they manipulated local politics to foment nationalist passions that would focus attenion beyond the borders and distract ordinary people from their domestic agendas. The result was the ghastly mess of modern European history.

But it all comes down to the fact that Europe's upper classes could not afford to compromise or share. At two percent growth per annum, the pie simply wasn't big enough, so they dug their heels in and fought to protect their privileges. Whereas at seven or eight or ten percent growth, there is lots of room for deals.

Look at the rapidly modernizing parts of Asia and Latin America, and even some places in the Middle East and Africa. You will see situations where the rich are still getting richer, but the poor are getting richer too. In these circumstances, the elite can afford to yield political power without losing everything.

The key idfference between early modern Europe and the late 20th-century 'Third World' is that this is not the first time round. Now the template for industrial growth is available to everybody, so the growth rates are far higher.

So high, in fact, that everybody can afford to compromize — which means that the new industrialized countries need not recapitulate the horrible history of their predecessors. They still may, but they don't have to.

Scandal-Tainted Indian Leader Should Quit

NEW DELHI — Most people in the eastern state of Bihar, recognized as India's most lawless state, believe their chief minister should quit over corruption allegations, an opinion poll said.

The poll, published in the *Outlook* weekly magazine, showed 80 percent wanted Laloo Prasad Yadav to resign over allegations he was involved in a $271-million scandal, and 82 percent believed he was guilty.

In the survey 601 people were interviewed in the three main cities of the state.

Yadav, a prominent leader of the minority coalition government and a leader of Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's Janata Dal (People's Party), is among 54 politicians and officials involved in the scandal.

The money disappeared from a state government fund set up to buy cattle feed.

Although the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has said it would prosecute Yadav soon, the embattled politician has denied the charges and said he would not set down.

He has warned Gujral that pressure would force "unpleasant decisions."

"As long as as the Gujral government upholds the principles of social justice and secularism, which are articles of faith for U.S., we will frustrate all attempts to dislodge it," he said late Tuesday in the state capital Patna.

"But we will be forced to take unpleasant decisions if it fails to do so."

Yadav told the magazine that there was no evidence against him and he would not allow the CBI to plot his removal on "flimsy grounds."

"Let someone say that he gave me the money," Yadav challenged.

"In fact, I ordered the preliminary investigations into the case in 1995."

(AFP)

Man Cuts Off Cancerous Foot

DAR ES SALAAM — A Tanzanian man cut off his cancerous foot because he could not afford to pay the $26 asked for the operation by doctors, the Kiswahili daily newspaper Majira reported.

The paper said that 65-year-old William Mbaruku of Morogoro town, amputated his right foot with a sharp razor above a cancerous wound that had troubled him for a long time.

Mbaruku, a former medical assistant at a sisal estate near the town, told the paper that he was forced to cut off the leg himself after going to the regional hospital several times to plead for amputation, but without success. (AFP)

Butcher Makes Money Mince

LONDON — A British butcher watched as 848 pounds (1359 dollars) were chewed up in a meat mincing machine after he hid the money there overnight.

Barry Moore's father Bert, 70, turned on the mincer at the family business in Moretonhampstead, Devon, in the west of England, when business began the following morning, unaware the cash was inside.

"It is only a small town, so everyone is having a laugh about it. Someone even came in and asked for a pound of sausages in mint condition," said Moore junior. (AFP)

Mobutu Flies Out of Kinshasa, Perhaps for Final Time

KINSHASA, Zaire — With rebel forces closing in on Kinshasa, President Mobutu Sese Seko left his threatened capital Wednesday aboard his private Boeing 727 and flew to Gabon. It was unclear whether he would ever come back.

Mobutu landed hours later in the Atlantic coastal city of Libreville, Gabon, for what aides said would be two days of meetings with the leaders of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Togo and Congo - all strong supporters of Mobutu throughout his seven-month war with rebel leader Laurent Kabila.

Journalists were kept out of Kinshasa's airport terminal but saw a motorcade of at least a dozen vehicles, including two stretch limousines guarded by three military jeeps armed with mounted machine guns.

Unlike the reception by thousands of cheering people when Mobutu returned last year after convalescing in France for months, his departure drew little attention.

The government says Mobutu, 66 and ailing with prostate cancer, will return to Zaire after the summit, probably over the weekend. But a government official and Western diplomats have hinted the trip could be a first step of Mobutu's final departure in the face of a rebel advance.

The plane left at about 10:15 a.m. local time (0915 GMT).

Rebel forces are closing in on Kinshasa, and Mobutu's aides offered conflicting accounts Tuesday over whether Zaire's leader may be going into exile to end his losing war against rebel leader Laurent Kabila.

Presidential aides said Mobutu planned to return to Kinshasa on Friday, and dismissed speculation that Mobutu might use the trip to launch his exile to a third country following the failure of a weekend summit with Kabila.

Another government aide, however, said Mobutu could be on his way to France for good. (AP)

Cook Wants UK at EU Heart With France, Germany

PARIS — British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, in Paris on his first trip abroad, said on Wednesday he wanted Britain to have a "fresh start" and be one of the three leading players in Europe alongside France and Germany.

He said a new approach "will be good for Britain and it will be good for Europe" after Labour's election landslide swept away the Conservatives after 18 years in power.

"I want to make sure that Britain has a fresh start in Europe and that Britain joins France and Germany as the leading players," Cook told reporters after meeting French Socialist opposition leader Lionel Jospin.

Cook, who was installed last week, later met French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette and was to travel to Bonn to meet Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and opposition leaders for talks signalling an end to Britain's often antagonistic relationship with its continental partners.

Neither Cook nor Jospin, who met for about 30 minutes, would comment on the likelihood of Britain joining a single European currency. Labour has retained the right not to join and promised to hold a referendum before any such decision was taken.

He said that the French Socialists were Labour's "sister party" in France but declined to say who he wanted to win a snap parliamentary election in France on May 25-June 1. (Reuter)

20 Indian Soldiers Killed by Tribal Guerrillas

GUWAHATI, India — Twenty Indian soldiers were killed and at least five injured Wednesday by separatist tribal rebels in the worst attack yet on troops in the far-eastern state of Tripura, a minister said.

Militants from the outlawed National Liberation Front of Tripura ambushed a paramilitary patrol at Khumlong, about 150 kilometers (93 miles) from the capital Agartala, said Samar Choudhury, Tripura's home minister.

"All the soldiers died on the spot," he said.

Police said troops had been put on maximum alert across the troubled state with intensified patrolling and additional deployment of forces as soldiers and paramilitary troops launched a joint search operation in southern Khumlong. (AFP)

200 Civilians, 100 Soldiers Killed at Kenge

KINSHASA — Some 200 civilians and 100 Zairean government troops have been killed in heavy fighting against rebels for control of Kenge, east of Kinshasa, aid agency sources reported Wednesday.

Reports reaching Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF - Doctors Without Borders) early Wednesday said street fighting was continuing in the town 200 kilometers (125 miles) east of the capital.

The sources, who said 15 rebel troops had been killed, denied a claim by rebel justice spokesman Mwenze Kongolo late Tuesday that the guerrillas had taken control of the town. (AFP)

Indonesian Minority Party Wooing Megawati

JAKARTA — Indonesia's Muslim-based minority party is lobbying Megawati Sukarnoputri, ousted leader of the rival Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), for support in its election campaign, a close aide to Megawati said on Wednesday.

The Muslim-oriented United Development Party (PPP) and the PDI are battling the much-larger ruling Golkar Party for May 29 general elections to the House of Representatives.

Golkar, in power for the last 30 years under President Suharto, is seeking to push its share of the vote to more than 70 percent from the 68 percent it won at the last polls in 1992. The PPP won 17 percent and the PDI 15 percent.

The PPP sent Mudrick Sangidoe, chief of the party branch in Solo, central Java, to meet Megawati at her residence on Tuesday, the aide, legislator Soetardjo Soerjogoeritno told Reuters.

Sangidoe asked Megawati to allow her many loyalists in Solo to join the PPP, he said.

Megawati, who was not available for comment, gave no commitment but appeared to approve the move, Soerjogoeritno said. (Reuter)

Tokyo Says Japanese Landings on Disputed Islands Were Illegal

TOKYO — The Japanese government said for the first time yesterday that landings by Japanese nationalists on disputed islands that angered China and Taiwan were "illegal."

But the action failed to stop a new wave of protests in Taiwan and Hong Kong over Japan's claim to sovereignty to the islands in the east China Sea.

Demonstrators marched on the Japanese Consulate in Hong Kong where diplomats refused to accept a protest letter, while in Taipei, demonstrators forced their way into Tokyo's representative office.

Japan faced new controversy over the islands, known as the Diaoyu to Chinese and the Senkaku to Japanese, after four Japanese, including an opposition deputy, landed on the main island on Tuesday. It was the second visit in nine days.

"It is illegal because the owner of the land did not approve the landings," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama told a news conference, news reports said.

"And from the external point of view, it is also not desirable to stir up controversy," the government spokesman added, apparently referring to China's angry reaction.

Japan, China and Taiwan all claim the islands, around 200 kilometers (120 miles) north of Taiwan, which were at the center of protests last year. (AFP)



ALGIERS, Algeria (May 6): Algerian security servicemen monitor the cleanup at the site of a car-bomb explosion which killed four students and injured 21 others, 6 seriously, outside a high school in Bab-el-Oued district of Algiers. The blast, apparently timed for the mid-day break in classes, killed three girls, aged 15 to 18, and a 12-year-old boy. The unclaimed attack came a month before Algeria's first legislative elections since those cancelled in 1992, touching off the war with the opposition in which 60,000 civilians have been slain.

(AFP PHOTO)

S. Korean Corruption Scandal Widens, New Firm Hit

SEOUL — A corruption scandal swirling around South Korean President Kim Young-Sam's son claimed a new corporate victim on Wednesday, deepening a political crisis that has reduced Kim to a lame duck.

The main opposition National Congress for New Politics alleged associates of the president's son managed more than 20 billion won ($22 million) of unspent funds from Kim's 1992 presidential campaign.

Earlier, the *Chosun Ilbo* newspaper reported that the Hansol Group, the nation's 16th largest industrial conglomerate, looked after seven billion won of that money.

Hansol denied the report.

"This is obviously leftovers from the presidential election fund," a National Congress statement said. "The money is just a tip of the iceberg."

A presidential spokesman declined comment on the KBS report. The president has said he had no direct hand in fund-raising.

The *Chosun Ilbo* reported that state prosecutors had evidence that Hansol managed seven billion won on behalf of a former intelligence official linked to the president's second son, Kim Hyun-Chul. (Reuter)

Heaven's Gate Cultist Commits Suicide

SAN DIEGO — Another member of the Heaven's Gate Cult committed suicide on Tuesday, more than a month after 39 cult members died in a strange mass suicide ritual, police said.

A spokesman for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department said another man, also believed to be a cult member, tried to kill himself but he was still alive and being treated at a local hospital.

The bodies were discovered at a holiday inn in nearby Encinitas, California.

The identities of the two cult members were not immediately known and neither was the suicide method.

The bodies of 39 Heaven's Gate members were found on March 26 in an exclusive home in the Rancho Santa Fe suburb of San Diego. The 21 women and 18 men, between the ages of 20 and 72, were dressed in similar outfits, almost as if they were wearing uniforms. Police said the victims believed they would join up with a UFO behind the Hale-Bopp comet.

They died by eating drug-laced pudding or applesauce and then placing plastic bags over their heads.

CNN television reported yesterday that it had received a videotape from the two men in which one of them said he hoped they had not "missed the bus." (Reuter)

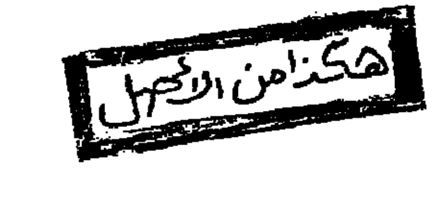
Bomb Attacks on Nigerian Military

LAGOS — A bomb ripped through an army bus in Nigeria's commercial hub of Lagos on Wednesday, wounding several people. Panic spread after a second explosion.

A Western diplomat said the blasts appeared to have been timed with the rounding up of a three-day conference in the capital Abuja by wives of African leaders on the promotion of peace on the conflict-plagued continent.

"The bombs seem to have been timed to coincide with the Abuja Conference even though the women are in no danger from that distance," the senior diplomat said.

A senior police officer at Lagos State Command said the first explosion "was quickly followed by another one and there is pandemonium in the area in Yaba". (Reuter)

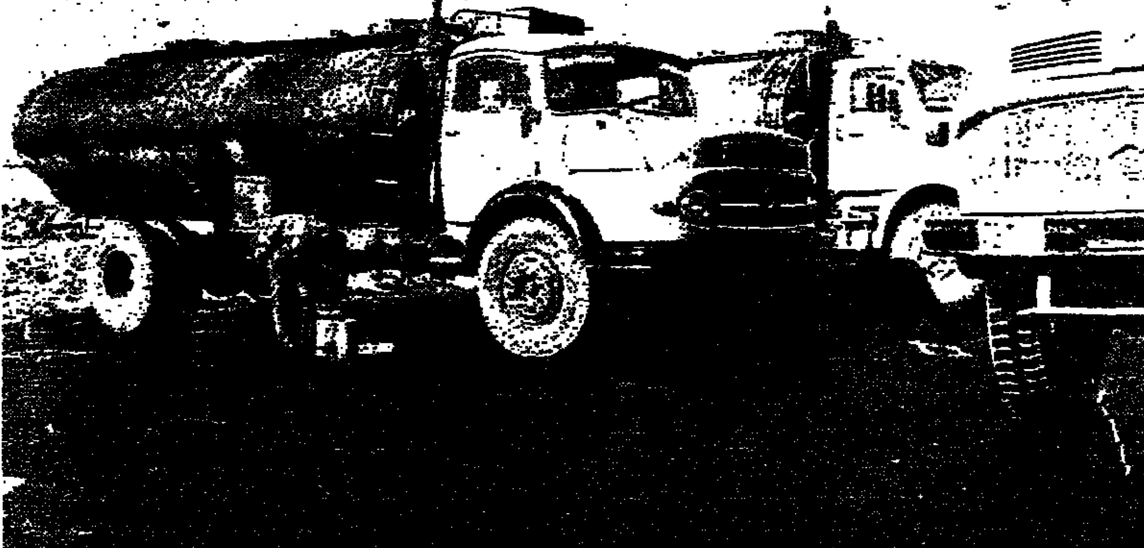


هكذا من الأصل

People on Repercussions of Fuel Price Rise

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — According to the country's Second Five-Year Development Plan, the prices of oil products are raised some 20 to 25 percent annually. Consequently, on Saturday, April 5, the prices of oil products were increased. For instance, the price of regular gasoline and lead-free gasoline was raised from 130 rials to 160 rials per liter. The new prices of some other oil products are as follows:



Super gasoline: 220 rials per liter; gas oil: 40 rials per liter; kerosine: 40 rials per liter; black oil: 20 rials per liter.

This price rise caused the prices of other commodities to go up, resu g in the people's dissatisfa . The fares of public trans s were also increased by 100 percent. The rates o mobile services rose by 150 percent and other type services also followed suit. the fact is that the increase the prices of oil products is no so considerable and cannot ju ify such great rises in other tes and prices.

The Tehran Taxi Service Organization in a directive ordered the taxi drivers to abstain from increasing their fares and the government's Organization for Taking Punitive Measures Against Violators of the Government-Approved Prices sentenced some violators to pay fines.

The *Tehran Times* talked to the people from different social strata, asking their views on the real prices of oil products, the impact of the increase in the prices of oil products on the prices of other commodities and the government's duty in this regard.

Manouchehr Bokand, a taxi driver:

I believe the people themselves are the main cause of increase in prices not the government. Some people who are profiteers and opportunists make the most of the slightest change in the government rates, using it as a reason for increasing the rates of their services or commodities. For instance, as soon as there was a 20-percent increase in the price of gasoline, the rates of automobile services rose by 120 percent!

I think before the government announces the increased prices, it should adopt a firm policy so as to prevent the profiteers from raising the rates of their services unreasonably. But it is true that, compared with other countries, the oil products are very cheap in Iran.

Hossein Aqababaee, a taxi driver:

Unfortunately, the present rise in the prices of different commodities and services is not at all proportionate to the increase in the prices of oil products. Without doubt the government should exercise more supervision in this regard. I, as a taxi driver, have not charged passengers increased fares yet, but since other rates and prices have presently doubled or tripled, I think I will be forced to increase the fares that I am currently charging.

The inflation growth is something natural but it should be within certain limits and should not be used as a pretext for some opportunists to rip off the people.

The inflation growth is something natural but it should be within certain limits and should not be used as a pretext for some opportunists to rip off the people.

Ali Izadi, a taxi driver:

A taxi uses at most 30 liters of gasoline per day. Therefore, the increase in the money spent on the fuel amounts to only 900 rials in a day, which does not justify the huge rise in the fares. It follows that there is no reason for such great price rises and the government should take severe measures against the profiteers. It is clear that such unreasonable increases will worsen the condition of economy and make the inflation get out of control.



Impact of Gasoline Price Increase on Automobile Services

According to some taxi drivers, when the price of gasoline was increased by 22 percent, the rates of automobile services rose by 50 percent.



Mohsen Sharifi, an automobile repairman, was asked whether he has increased his rates due to the rise in the fuel price. He answered, "The prices of many auto parts are going up. Consequently, the rates of service will also be increased."

Saeed Hanuji, a gas station attendant, said, "The drivers are complaining about the high prices of auto parts and services. One of them told me that before the increase in the fuel price, the price of brake shoes was 1,300 rials but now they cost 20,000 rials."

It seems that the small increase in the price of fuel has given those employed in the service sector and the dealers of auto parts an excuse for raising the prices of their commodities and services.

Views of Chairman of Parliament's Oil Committee

The Chairman of the Iranian Parliament's Oil Committee, Ahmad Nateq Nouri, told the *Tehran Times* that the increase in the prices of oil products is not so great as to cause such drastic changes in the fares and prices of parts and services.

If drivers are careful enough not to waste the fuel, there will be no need to raise the prices of oil products.

He added, "One of the duties of the Headquarters for Regulating the Market is to control the prices and rates of services. Now that some profiteers and opportunists are trying to undermine the country's economic stability, the headquarters should take draconian measures to stop their subversive activities."

Nateq Nouri noted that in view of the expenses of refining, the gasoline costs the government 262 rials per liter. "Thus, its present price is far less than its cost," he added.

The head of the Oil Committee further said that Iran's annual consumption of oil products and electricity is equal in value to some 12 billion dollars, adding that Iran is among the few countries which have such a high rate of consumption. "The need is felt to reduce such great consumption and one of the practical ways to achieve this objective is to modify the prices of oil products," he stressed.

Officials Recommend Economizing on Fuel

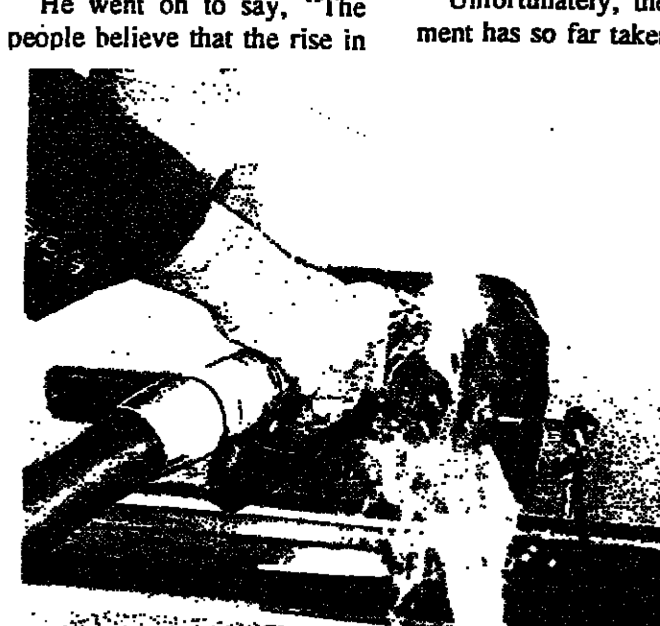
As it was said earlier, some 12 billion dollars worth of energy is consumed in Iran annually, which is actually squandering of energy resources. To make the case even worse, each driver while filling up his car tank at the gas station usually spills some half a liter of gasoline.

Parviz Aslani, the manager of a gas station, believes that if drivers are careful enough not to waste the fuel, there will be no need to raise the prices of oil products. He adds that economizing does not means using less, but that it means using efficiently and preventing waste.

People: Government's Supervision Only Solution to Problem

Amanollah Dafei, who is a Doctor of Law and is also a first-rate attorney, was asked by the *Tehran Times* for his view on the repercussions of the fuel price rise. He replied, "The lack of supervision and violation of the laws have always resulted in problems. Thus, whenever there is some sort of disorder, the root cause of the disorder and problem should be pinpointed and tackled."

He went on to say, "The people believe that the rise in the price of gasoline by 30 rials cannot justify the increase in the fares by some 300 to 700 rials. Thus, they ask why this should be the case."



Dafei added, "In order to effectively tackle the root cause of the above problem, severe measures should be taken against the profiteers and opportunists in any trade and guild."

Zahra Hassani, an economics student at the School of Economics of Allamah Tabatabaee University, said, "Explaining to the people the reasons for increasing the prices of different commodities and products before these prices are actually modified and also defining the limits of the consequent increases in the rates of services can greatly help to control inflation. Also, if the government officials call on the people to report the profiteers, this could help to stabilize the prices."

Officials' Duties and Some Recommendations

It follows from the different views expressed by the people that if the government takes strict measures against the profiteers and oversees the prices, it can succeed in curbing the inflation.

Unfortunately, the government has so far taken no concrete action in this regard. The people earnestly hope that the Headquarters for Regulating the Market and other government organs concerned will take strong measures as soon as possible to punish the profiteers and support the consumers.



Shahid

By: Ayatollah Murtada Mutahhari

Again, what kind of hue and cry is to be seen among the creatures of the World. Again what sort of alegy and what form of mourning and grief is being celebrated. Oh burnt hearted ones and oh grief stricken one. Oh mourners of Hussain (AS)! It is meritorious that Imam Sadiq (AS) prays for you saying "Oh Allah pray take pity upon the eyes out of which tears flow for the sake of sympathy with us. Do take pity and have mercy upon the hearts which have burnt by restlessness over our grief and sorrow. And have mercy upon those lamentations and cries which were raised in our grief.

There are certain words and expressions to which, in general use or particularly in Islamic terminology, a certain sense of dignity, and sometimes even sanctity, is attached. "Student," "teacher," "Scholar," "inventor," "hero," "reformer," "philosopher," "preacher," "believer," "pious person," "mujahid," "truthful one," "wali," "Imam," and "prophet" are some of the words of this category. A sense of dignity, even sanctity, is attached to these words in general usage, especially in Islamic discourse. It is evident that a word as such as no sanctity. It becomes sacred because of the sense which it conveys. The sanctity of a sense depends on a particular mental outlook, and on values which are cherished generally, or by a particular group of people.

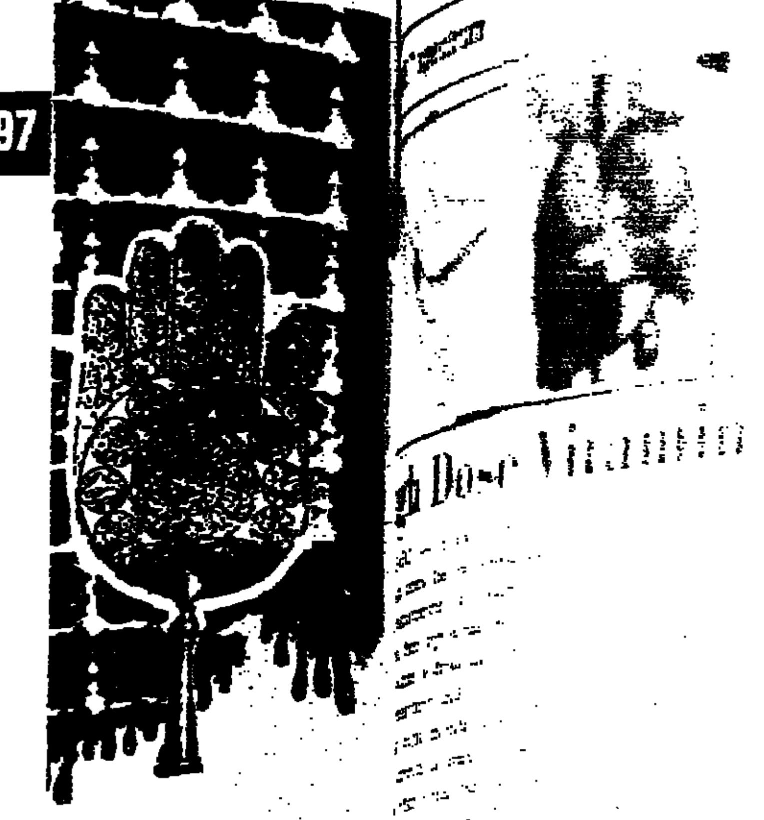
In Islamic terminology there is a word which has a special sanctity. When anyone familiar with the Islamic modes of expression hears this word, he feels it to be invested with a special glory. This word is *shahid*. A sense of grandure and sanctity is associated with it, in its use by all the people. Of course the standards and the criteria vary. At present we are only concerned with the Islamic usage of this term.

From the Islamic point of view, only that person is regarded as having secured the status of *shahid* who Islam recognizes as having acted according to its own standards. Only he who is killed in an effort to achieve the highest Islamic objectives and is really motivated by a desire to safeguard true human values attains this position, which is one of the highest to which one can aspire. From what the noble Qoran and *hadith* say about the *shuhada*, it is possible to infer why Muslims attach so much sanctity to this word, and what the logic behind it is.

With respect to the proximity of the shahid to God, the noble Qoran says: *"Think not of those who were slain in the way of God as dead. Nay, they are alive, finding their sustenance with their Lord."* (3:169)

In Islam, when a meritorious person or deed is to be exalted, it is said that particular person has the status of *shahid*, or that a particular act merits the reward of *shahadat*. For example, a student who seeks knowledge with the motive of finding out the truth and gaining the favor of God is said to die the death of shahid if he dies during the course of his studies. This signifies the high status and sanctity of a student. Similarly, a person who endures pain and labors strenuously for the support of his family is said to be like a fighter in the cause of God. It may be noted that Islam is severely opposed to lethargy and parasitism, and regard hard work as a duty.

(To be cont'd)



فَإِنْ مَنْ طَلَبَ رَضِيَ اللّه بِسَخَطِ النَّاس كَفَاهُ اللّهُ أُمُورَ النَّاسَ وَ
مَنْ طَلَبَ رَضِيَ النَّاس بِسَخَطِ اللّه وَ كَلَّهُ إِلَى النَّاسِ

"If one seeks the pleasure of Allah despite the wrath and displeasure of people, Allah is sufficient for him in his affairs with them. And if one seeks the pleasure of people despite the wrath and displeasure of Allah, he will be forsaken by Him leaving him to (the mercy of) people" — *Imam Hussein (AS)*

THE ASHURA UPRISING



Muharram is the month in which justice rose against injustice and Truth stood up against Falsehood and proved that, in the course of history, Truth has always triumphed over Falsehood.

The Betrayal in Kufa

Tehran Times Service

Pin-drop silence prevailed in the mosque at Kufa where a large congregation had gathered to offer evening prayers. Outside the mosque the town-crier was reading out the proclamation. Every one of the congregation was straining his ears to listen to every word with rapt attention.

At the top of his voice the town-crier was shouting: "Be it known to the people of Kufa that Obeidullah, son of Ziad, has assumed the governorship of Kufa under the orders of the Khalif. He has noted with perturbation that the people of Kufa have extended their welcome to Muslim, son of Aqil, who has come from Medina as an emissary of Husain, son of Ali, who has declined to owe allegiance to the Khalif. It is hereby proclaimed for the information of all the citizens of Kufa that any person found associating with Muslim, son of Aqil, will be considered a rebel against the Khalif and, by way of punishment, he will be hanged, drawn and quartered, his entire family will be put to the sword and his property confiscated. In case of those who have bitherto extended their welcome to him, if they now repent and desist from doing so, amnesty will be given."

With bated breath every one listened to the proclamation. It was this same Muslim, son of Aqil, who was to lead the prayers that evening, and as the proclamation ended he arose to fulfil his duty. A few exchanged inquiring glances with their friends. Some others whispered some words to their neighbors. At this moment the call for prayers was given and Muslim silently rose to lead the congregational prayers.

When Muslim completed the prayers and turned back, he found the mosque empty, except for one person only — Hanee Ibne Orwah at whose house Muslim was staying as a guest. The two looked at each other. No words were needed to tell Muslim why the people of Kufa had deserted him. The people of Kufa, who had so persistently asked Husain to come over to them and take up the responsibilities of their spiritual amelioration had, one hearing the proclamation, got scared out of their wits. These were the people who had in the past betrayed Muslim's uncle Ali, the Commander of the Faithful, and shown cowardice in times of trouble and tribulations. These were the people who had deserted Muslim's cousin, Hasan, son of Ali, in his hour of need.

Muslim stood for a while motionless. His face was full of anguish. He was not dismayed at the fate that awaited him, because a fighting death was the heritage of his family. He was only disconsolate at the thought that he has reposed confidence in these people's sincerity and written to his cousin, Husain, to come over to Kufa as their moral, mental and spiritual preceptor, to save them from sinking into the depths of moral degradation. How he wished he has not been hasty about judging these people!

A moment's reflection was sufficient to make up his mind. At least there was one man with him who could be relied upon. If he could only send a message to Husain through Hanee Ibne Orwah about the treachery of the people of Kufa!

With these thoughts Muslim turned towards Hanee. Before he could give expression to his thoughts, Hanee Ibne Orwah anticipated his words. In low whispers he said: "Muslim, my respected guest, I know what is uppermost in your mind. If God enable me to leave this cursed town in time, I shall rush post-haste to warn our master and Imam to turn back." He hung his head down and, in a tone which was hardly audible, added, as if muttering to himself: "Muslim, my duty towards you as your host demands that I should remain here to protect you and shed the last drop of my blood in your defense.

But I know that you would like me to attend to the higher duty which we both owe to our Lord, Husain Ibne Ali. There is hardly time to be lost and so I bid you farewell. May Almighty God protect you and your innocent sons from the fury of these treacherous fiends."

Hanee Ibne Orwah rushed out of the mosque. He knew that he had to act quickly, if at all he was to succeed in his mission. Before leaving Kufa he had to do something for the safety of the two young sons of Muslims who had not yet reached their teens. He was quickly revolving in his mind how he could hide these innocent boys and where. He could not think of anybody known to him who could be trusted to give shelter to them.

He hardly had nay time at his disposal to make arrangements because his paramount obligation was to convey Muslim's message to Imam Husain. His quick-working mind decided that the children of Muslim must be warned to get out of the house where they were no longer safe and leave the rest to God.

On reaching his house, Hanee asked his wife to whisk the children out of the house by the back door for their safety. He asked his servant to harness his horse as quickly as he could.

Hardly Muhammad and Ibrahim, the young sons of Muslim, had been put on the road to face the world and its turmoils in a strange and unfriendly city, the house of Hanee was surrounded by armed troopers sent by Obeidullah.

Hanee realized that the hope he had cherished to leave the town and carry the message of Muslim to Husain was completely frustrated. He unsheathed his sword and fell upon the hirelings of Obeidullah with the intention of selling his life as dearly as he could. The odds against him were too heavy. He was soon overpowered and chained and marched off to the court of the Governor.

(To be cont'd)

IMAM HUSSEIN IBN ALI

All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. There is no god but Allah, the One. Peace and blessings be with Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah and his pure and sinless Ahlul-Bait.

In the twentieth century, and particularly in the last quarter of it, we have witnessed many revolutions resulting in drastic changes in the geographical, political and sociological faces of the world. Most of these changes, if not all, have affected large groups of Muslims in one way or the other.

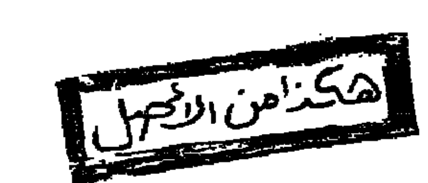
World events move quickly and man forgets the lessons of the past. But history is connected by a series of circumstances and continues to repeat itself. Thus, the past affects the present and the present, no less, affects the future. The human conflicts we are witnessing in the world today are merely a reflection of the conflicts of the past. The essence of these conflicts are based on right and wrong, good and evil, truth and falsehood.

We often find the unjust ideologies, regimes and methods of ideology threatening the security of the people and destroying man with the pressure of their interests and enmity. We often find this to be in effect in this land, in Europe, Asia, America and Africa. When we search history we find that what we are suffering today is a continuation of the stories of injustice of long ago and that the oppressors of the world today are the successors of the oppressors of yesterday.

If we contemplate these and the many other events that are affecting the Muslim world today, we will find that there is a strong parallelism to the subject of our book.

This is a brief account of the life of Imam Hussein bin Ali bin Abi Talib (AS), the second grandson of the Holy Prophet (S) and the third divinely chosen caliph from the Ahlul-Bait (AS). He was the leader of a movement that was very unlike his illustrious predecessors. Although the Holy Prophet (S) engaged in war for the sake of Allah, it was at a time when Islam was struggling to establish itself as a divine religion. Later, during the Imamate of Ali bin Abi Talib (AS), again he was driven to war to protect Islam from the deviators. At the time of the Imamate of Hassan bin Ali bin Abi Talib (AS) his followers had lost much of their power and force and because the bloodshed of war would cause further division in the ummah, Imam Hassan (AS) opted for a peace treaty with the enemy in order to protect the religion.

(To be cont'd)





High Dose Vitamin E Benefitss. Elderly

CHICAGO — Elderly people given six times the recommended daily requirement of vitamin E bolstered their age-weakened immune systems without adverse effects, researchers said.

In an eight-month trial, 88 healthy subjects at least 65 years old took either a placebo, or vitamin E supplements of 60, 200, or 800 milligrams per day. The U.S. recommended daily allowance of 30 milligrams daily applies to younger people.

The elderly subjects taking 200 milligram supplements showed significantly increased immune responses to hepatitis b and tetanus vaccines, wrote study author Simin Meydani of the nutritional immunology laboratory at Tufts University in Boston. The antioxidant vitamin also has been found to inhibit production of prostaglandin E2, a fatty acid.

However, the subjects did not develop a stronger immune response to a diphtheria vaccine and there was no effect on the total number of cells and proteins that fight infection.

"Since age-associated decline in immune response is associated with increased morbidity and mortality in the elderly and is widely observed, recommendations to increase the intake of vitamin E for elderly should be considered," Meydani wrote in the *Journal of the American Medical Association.*

His study was funded in part by a grant from drugmaker Hoffman-Laroche Inc., a unit of roche holding Ltd.

"The era of nutrient supplements to promote health and reduce illness is here to stay," Ranjit Changdra of the Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, Canada, wrote in an accompanying editorial.

Chandra, who holds a patent

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Cream Found to Heal Herpes Cold Sores Faster

CHICAGO — Recurrent cold sores and painful mouth lesions caused by a form of herpes that afflicts one in three Americans healed more quickly when a recently approved cream was applied, a study released on this week said.

The 782 people given penciclovir antiviral cream reported a median healing time of 4.8 days for their cold sores, compared to 5.5 days for those applying a placebo.

The length of time pain was experienced from the sores, which can appear several times a year on the lips and nostrils, was shortened to 3.5 days with the cream compared to 4.1 days for the placebo.

The trial, which was funded in part by drug maker Smithkline Beecham plc, required frequent application and may have underestimated its benefits, study author Spotwood Spruance from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City wrote in the journal of the *American Medical Association.*

The cream, available by prescription under the brand name Denavir, was recently granted U.S. approval based on the findings of U.S., Canadian and European trials.

Cold sores affect between 20 percent and 45 percent of Americans and can be triggered by the sun, fever, stress, menstruation and the common cold. The cause, herpes simplex virus type-1, can be spread by the lesions through direct contact or shared surfaces such as drinking from the same cup.

The cream contains the same active agent as the oral pill famvir that is used to treat recurrent genital herpes, which is caused by herpes simplex type-2, and herpes zoster, or shingles. The drug works by inhibiting viral DNA replication in herpes-infected cells. *(Reuter)*

THOUGHT

While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about.

Angela Schwindt

PRAYER

Noon	13:01
Evening	20:18
Dawn (tomorrow)	04:18
Sunrise (tomorrow)	06:05

Britain Confirms 16 Human "Mad Cow" Cases

LONDON - The British government said on Tuesday it had identified 16 definite and probable cases of the newest human version of mad cow disease.

In its monthly update on creutzfeldt-jakob disease (CJD), it said there had been six cases of the brain-wasting illness so far in 1997.

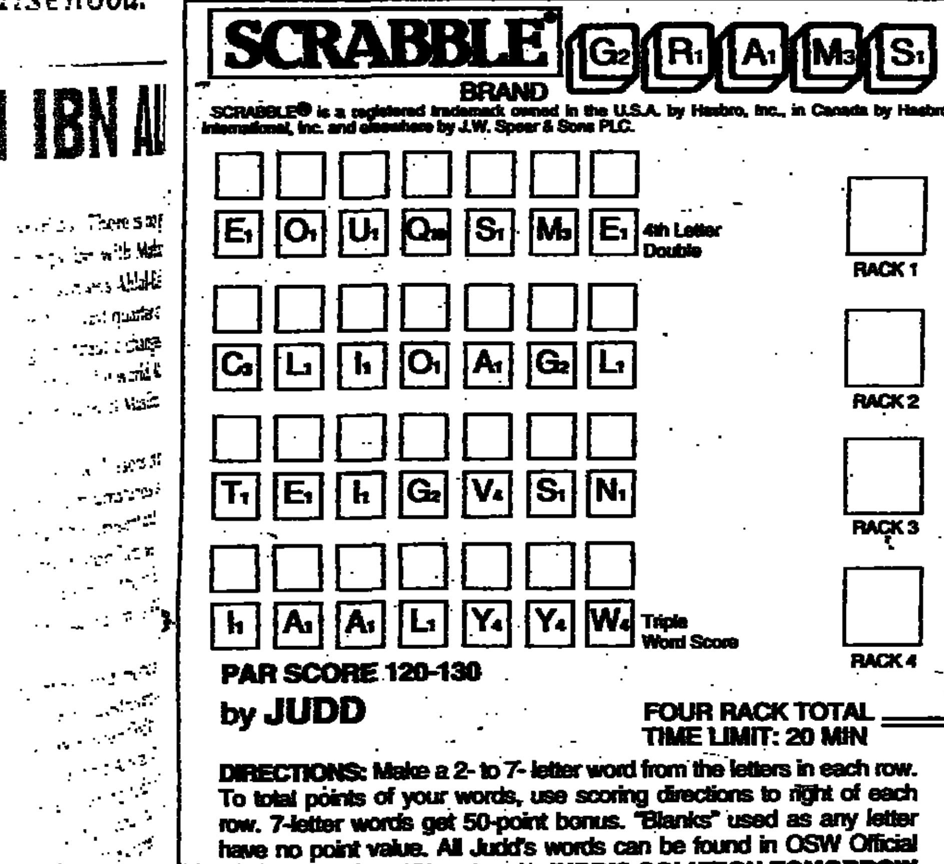
Of these, one was the "new variant" of CJD first identified a year ago and linked with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease).

That brought the total number of cases of the new variant in Britain to 16, including two definite cases —identified by brain biopsy — who were still alive.

One case of the new variant has been reported in France.

CJD normally strikes about one in a million. There were 57 cases in Britain last year. *(REUTER)*





SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

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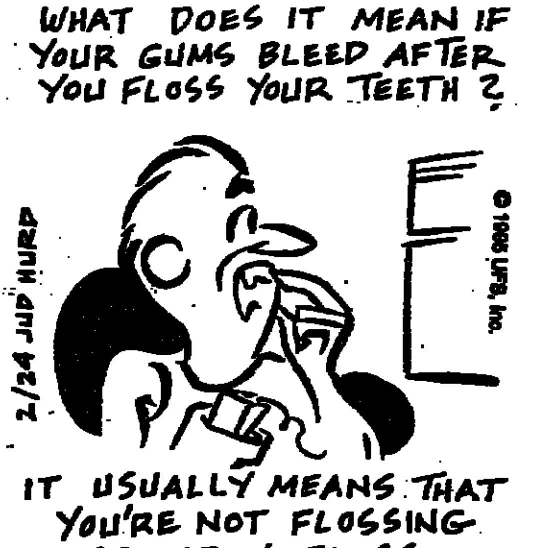
Q_{10}	U_1	I_1	V_4	E_1	R_1		RACK 1 =	18
F_4	L_1	Y_4	O_1	V_4	E_1	R_1	RACK 2 =	82
J_8	A_1	R_1	G_2	O_1	N_1		RACK 3 =	14
H_4	A_1	S_1	S_1	L_1	E_1	S_1	RACK 4 =	68

PAR SCORE 115-125 JUDD'S TOTAL 182

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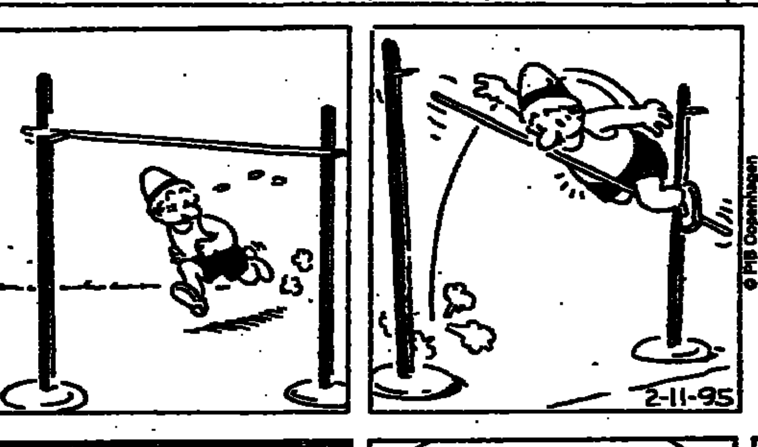
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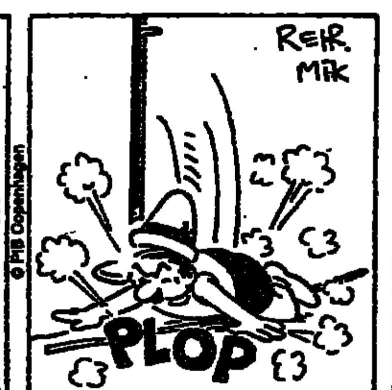
by Michael A. Petti, M.D.



Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.













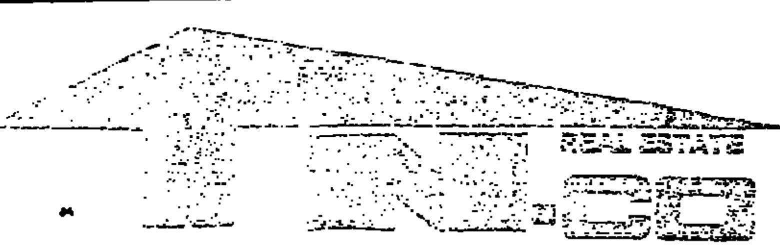






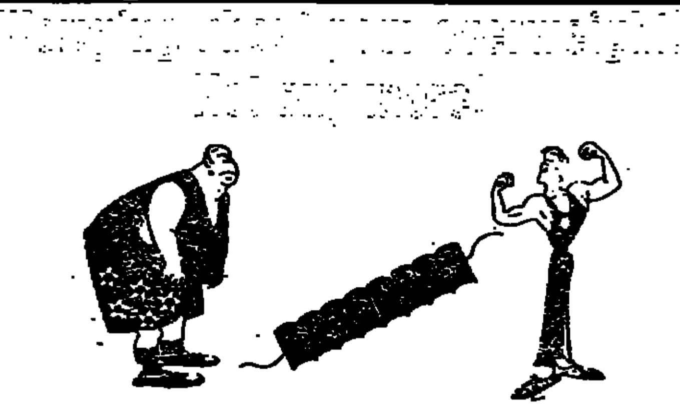
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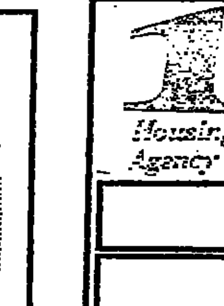


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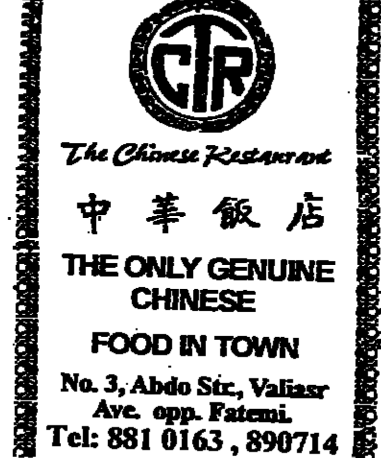
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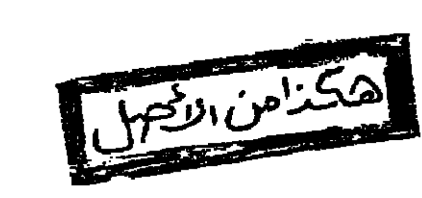
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Zaire: Fear and Laughter as Rebels Approach

KINSHASA — In the rolling hills east of Kinshasa, fear and laughter alternate easily in the eyes of the dishevelled Zairean soldiers clutching their guns.

They can be seen if you drive out of the capital, Past n'Djili International Airport, the open fields, the little villages tucked either side of the road, and into the lush hillsides.

On the road to Kenge fear pervades, because it is on the road from Kenge, about 200 kilometers (120 miles) from Kinshasa, that Laurent Kabila's rebels will one day converge on the capital.

Kabila's justice spokesman Mwenze Kongolo said in the southeastern town of Lubumbashi that the rebels had captured Kenge, inflicting heavy losses on government forces.

Strike up a conversation with the men manning the roadblocks or hurtling along the route in battered, overcrowded trucks, however, and the tension soon disappears in a flurry of flashing smiles and slap-happy handshakes.

One of those battered vehicles lurched to a halt behind two cars of journalists who had stopped at a village to look for diesel fuel. The military, some in uniform and some in civilian clothes, demanded to see papers.

One grabbed a television camera, another portable telephones, and they ordered an about-turn to a roadblock 10 kilometers (six miles) back.



KINSHASA, Zaire (April 30): Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko gestures to U.S. envoy to Zaire Bill Richardson (out of frame) after their meeting at Mobutu's private residence. Richardson announced that Mobutu and rebel leader Laurent Desire Kabila had agreed to a face-to-face meeting May 2 aboard a South African naval vessel. Standing behind Mobutu is Mobutu's son Nzanga.

(AFP PHOTO)

More shouting, a security official casually cocked his pistol in the front seat, and another diversion, this time to a military camp where a major assured all would be well if papers were in order.

Why was the international press saying the rebels were only 60 kilometers (40 miles) from the airport when his camp was the same distance, he complained.

He relaxed as he leafed through the papers, carefully comparing names and press documents. The room was hot and stuffy in the still heat of the early afternoon.

As the tension eased, he laughed more easily. "I am an officer of the military police with interplanetary competence," he said.

He insisted on buying roasted peanuts and rolls of bread. "This is my office. I'm inviting you."

Inside his briefcase, packed alongside a few sheets of paper, he showed a small bag of rice. Army rations, he explained.

Outside, in the sultry heat, little moved. A knot of soldiers sat on a bench in the shade of a tree, talking. A bugle blew, but no one appeared to answer the call. Flies buzzed around.

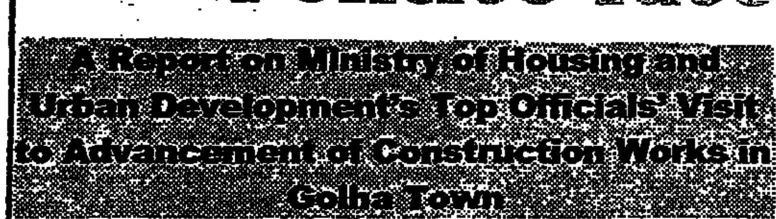
Inside, soldiers chatted easily. Handshakes, ready laughs. What did people in Europe think was going to happen in Zaire, one asked, then said: "We are determined."

The military, some wearing uniforms of the elite presidential division of the Zairean Army, smiled away any question about the fighting reported at Kenge.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Golha Town. Solid Evidence of Close Cooperation and Collaboration Between Housing Cooperative Co. and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

Members of Housing Cooperative and "NAJA" Politico-Ideologic Staff Put an End to Tenancy



A Report on Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's Top Officials' Visit to Advancement of Construction Works in Golha Town

Introduction

Last year one of the newspapers published a report namely "The Sweet Dream of Owning a House Is Materialized in Golha Town". According to the latest reports, this year, the construction works are still going on using the self-sufficiency principle in NAJA (Islamic Republic Army Ground Forces) No.1 Politico-Ideologic Department's Housing Cooperative Co. also enjoying the governmental facilities as well as the banking system of the country plus economizing the current expenditures.

Almost five months after the first report and at the onset of Eid ul-Ghadir, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's top officials visited the operational and construction works of Golha Town during a ceremony attended by the responsible authorities of the town's construction works and members of NAJA Politico-Ideologic Department's Housing Cooperative Co.

The Officials gave some guidelines on the advancement of the operations in the town.

The following is a comprehensive report on the ceremony.

Engineer Shapouri, Director General for Tehran Province Housing and Urban Development, expressing his satisfaction of the advancement of construction operations in the town with the agreeable quality said:

"It is my belief that the most important principle in construction procedure, is maintaining quality and its further promotion. Fortunately, quality has been well considered in construction of Golha Town. Maintaining quality during the operations is both useful for the commissioner and consumer. Financially speaking, doing so requires minor figures."

He added: "In carrying out the articles of Budget Law last year and this year, housing cooperatives and residential complex-makers (mass-producers) can enjoy an eight percent discount for the loan interest payable to the bank."

Dr. Teimour, Managing Director of Tehran Province Housing and Urban Development Organization's Architecture and Urban Development Management said the construction activities in Golha Town have been successful and satisfactory adding:

"Is we outline construction works of the towns in three stages, we will see that the management of this town, applying applied guidelines of Housing and Urban Development Organization, has been successful in the three stages of design, ratification and execution. Fairly speaking, we should say that Golha Town is exemplary which has passed the hierarchy of ratification well.

In execution works also we witness regularity in all sections: first preparing the ground, then house-building simultaneously with the establishment of public service sections required for the town.



He went on to say: "What we witnessed during our visit today, was the coordinated construction works according to the requirements of the ratified plan and paying special attention to the number of residential units and per capita of the town's population. Management of the organization is satisfied with the achievements."

Finally, he expressed hope the town would completely go on stream in near future and Tehran Province Housing and Urban Development reap the fruit of its participation in the formation of an exemplary town.

Advancement of Construction Works

During the ceremony Mr. Gholam Hasan Azari Shad, Managing Director of NAJA No.1 Politico-Ideologic Department's Housing Cooperative Co., giving a report on the activities and executional stages in the town said:

"During the short-term construction works, starting Nov.-Dec. 1996, implementation of the complex's ceilings has been continued and the production workshops have been developed. During the said time span, the tile producing workshop was put on stream. From now on, the floor tiles of residential units (indoor and outdoor) will be produced by the cooperative.

Ceiling concrete blocks workshop is operational and the welding workshop has been equipped.

At present all doors, windows, and guard fences needed for the complex are made and procured by the cooperative. According to the programs made the cooperative is supposed to fabricate walls to separate residential units."

He added: "One of the most important factors in executional works, on which 70 percent of work advancement lays, is ontime procurement of construction materials specially strategic and important needs.

Last year, enjoying the allocated credits decisions were made for procuring construction materials as cement, pipes, and tiles. This year will be still better if the cooperative members pay the expenditures ontime."

Revealing that the plan of establishing education centers of Golha Town has taken preliminary steps, Azari Shad said:

"Concerning the fact that establishment of education centers in the town is one of the first needs of the would-be dwellers of the town, the operational works in this regard will be launched in near future.

The public service units and the town's central park are under construction. Also the public and private transportation terminals have been established in the town."

Finally, he said all the achievements in the town have been materialized as a result of close collaboration of the members of NAJA Politico-Ideologic Department's Housing Cooperative Company and executional managers of the town.

First and Second Phases Near the Finish Line

According to Engineer Seyed Mohammad Naser Raisi, deputy executional-operational affairs and head of workshop for NAJA Politico-Ideologic Department's Housing Cooperative Co., since Nov.-Dec. of last year outstanding changes have been made in the town specially in equipping workshops and advancement of the works.

Golha Town consists of 7 phases and 1,400 residential units, all with high standards (The notification 2800 on earthquake has been completely put in practice in these units with the supervision of Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.)

He went on to say: "Since last year, 60 percent of ceiling plan for phases 1 & 2, including some 300 residential units, has been implemented. He hope phases 1 & 2 will be handed over to the members by the September, 1997.

Also a few new workshops as blacksmith have been equipped and put on stream, some new machinery and two buses for the transportation of the staff have been purchased."

Finally, he hoped the situation would be better enough to make the responsible authorities of the town fulfill their obligations.

Freemasonry Grapples With Image Problems

LONDON — Clandestine meetings, strange rituals and secret handshakes — it may sound like ancient paganism, but this is a common perception of freemasonry.

Freemasons, often criticized as a group of middle class men helping each other up the corporate ladder, have a serious image problem.

But the current leadership is determined to get rid of their bad reputation as a sinister group out to subvert the course of justice for personal gain.

The freemasons' movement of England and Wales made its first tentative footsteps from the shadows in 1984, with men willing to admit to membership and talk of their aims and beliefs. That openness continues today.

"There is only one thing we keep secret — the means of recognition which are the signs, tokens and words," said Michael Higham, who as grand secretary of the grand united lodge of England, Wales and overseas is one of the order's most senior officials.

Calvi Case Helped Speed the Change

Before World War II, the society was open but for 40 years afterwards it turned in on itself. A policy of not talking to the press or correcting factual errors exacerbated a growing belief of conspiracy.

The case of Italian banker Roberto Calvi may have been the catalyst for openness.

In June 1982 Calvi, chairman of Banco Ambrosiano and often known as "god's banker" because of his links with Vatican circles, was found dead, hanging from Blackfriars bridge in London.

He had nothing in his pockets but some pebbles, and a myth was born that Italian freemasons were somehow implicated in his mysterious death.

"We were and sometimes still are a very convenient scapegoat," said higham.

Freemasons hall in central London is open to visitors. The society is registered with the tourist board and newsletters are published quarterly.

Even the paraphernalia which intrigues outsiders — the costumes and tools used in rituals to admit masons to the order — can be bought from a shop opposite the hall.

Allegations of corruption in the police and the judiciary have kept away many candidates in the past few years, but Winston Churchill, Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, Christopher Wren, and Rudyard Kipling were masons.

Almost every generation of the royal family has been represented and ultimate power lies with the grand master, currently the Duke of Kent, Queen Elizabeth's cousin.

But freemasonry is not limited to the rich and famous. "We say,'from dukes to dustmen,'" said Higham, a mason for 41 years and grand secretary for 17. "To be a freemason, one requires a belief in any 'good' god and you have to be a good citizen. politics are not discussed."

Charity Begins at the Lodge

Though there are no specific aims, a major masonic obligation is charity.

"Freemasons and their families are looked after first. That's where our charity begins," said Higham.

Over the past three years masons have collected 13 million pounds ($21.1 million) and donated half to practitioners and half to non-practitioners.

Freemasonry's "column of mutual support and defense", under which members look out for each other, is an obligation which draws accusations of influence-peddling, but Higham says the system has limits.

"The obligation does not extend to breaking the law," Higham said. "You would help your friends if you could."

Freemasonry's roots, some say, go back to the Egyptians, or to the ancient civilizations of Sumeria or Phoenicia. Others say it started with Hiram Abif, the builder of King Solomon's temple, upon which its rituals are based.

"Solomon's temple conveniently brings together Christians and Moslems. But the religious representation is all encompassing," Higham said.

Modern Freemasonry Takes Shape

Modern freemasonry took its form at the turn of the 17th century. Elias Ashmole, who wrote of his initiation in 1646, is the first mason on record.

"It may have started in the 1500s with the operative masons who built cathedrals and castles. But nobody really knows," said Higham.

Freemasonry spread with the British Empire. Today there are 350,000 members belonging to 8,500 lodges affiliated to the united lodge. The overseas contingent, mainly in Commonwealth countries, South America and Turkey, totals 33,000 members.

There are about another 130 united lodges worldwide with around 4.5 million members.

"Hitler loathed the organization and the Iron Curtain didn't allow it," Higham said. "Neither does it do well in fundamentally Islamic countries. They think it's a radical Zionist organization."

Some masons leave when they discover it is not for advancing personal interests, one or two leave because they feel it conflicts with religious beliefs and some leave because they fear it may harm their employment.

"Many employers don't like the order. But we expect members to tell the truth if asked," said Higham.

Expulsion is the only option when a mason misbehaves or falls foul of the law. Thirty-five were expelled in 1996, just below the annual average of nearly 39 over the past 10 years. *(Reuter)*

60Years Later, Zeppelin's Crash Remains a Mystery

LAKEHURST, New Jersey — What happened is familiar to anybody who has seen the black-and-white footage of flames peeling away the skin of the airship Hindenburg, or heard the eyewitness reporter's frantic description of "the humanity" dying before him.

It's the "why" that remains unanswered, 60 years after the 804-foot (245-meter) German Zeppelin burst into flames, crashing in slow motion onto a New Jersey field.

On May 6, 1937, 10 hours late for its landing at Lakehurst naval air station after a 2 1/2-day trip from Frankfurt, the ship descended to about 300 feet (90 meters) and crew members dropped lines to be moored.

Then it happened — an explosion that killed 35 on board and a navy crewman on the ground.

"All we saw was a big red glow inside, then she burst through the covered remembers John Iannaccone, 86, who was a navy crew member. "We ran toward the ship. We saw one man jump out of the nose. He got killed. We saw another one running and everything was burned right off him. he died, too.

"We ran up to the passenger compartment and saw an old couple still sitting in there. They didn't even know what had happened," Iannaccone said.

Among the reporters was Herbert Morrison, 31, recording the landing for radio station WLS in Chicago.

"It's burning, bursting into flames. ... This is one of the worst catastrophes. ... Oh, the humanity," Morrison says in the famous recording.

The cause of the explosion was in dispute from the start. Tales of sabotage by Germans, though never supported by facts, continue to fuel conspiracy theories.

Investigations said the probable cause was a leak of hydrogen, the flammable, lighter-than-air gas that filled the airship, complicated by looming thunderstorms and a spark of static electricity from the landing lines dragging on the ground below.

But new evidence suggests it is more likely that a static spark ignited the cigar-shaped airship's outer cover, which was made of cloth coated with a highly flammable varnish, former NASA hydrogen manager Addison Bain said in an article published this month by the *Smithsonian Air and Space Museum* magazine.

He and airship historian Richard Van Treuren contend in the article that newsreel footage shows that the fire did not burn like a hydrogen fire. Flames from a hydrogen fire would have shot up toward the sky, they say, but the fire burned toward the ground.

Iannaccone, who watched from about 300 feet (90 meters) away, rejects the theory.

"I still believe it was static electricity and hydrogen. I'll stand by it. I was there," he said.

Today, the site is virtually unchanged. It wasn't until 1987 that a Hindenburg memorial was built. The 15-foot (4 1/2-meter) long, diamond-shaped granite marker sits on a vacant airfield, nearly flush with the ground. On Tuesday night, the grandsons of the navy crewman who died in the crash will lay a wreath at the site.

In Lakehurst, the "airship capital of the world," airships icons are everywhere.

Borough administrator Robert Morris has a plastic bag full of airship-shaped erasers and airship-shaped lapel pins for visitors to his office.

Morris, like other residents of this former railroad town 45 miles (70 kilometers) east of Philadelphia, doesn't mind that the town's name is synonymous with an aviation tragedy.

Mary Scilex, president of the Lakehurst Historical Society, said, "we always say, 'you can't think about the Hindenburg without thinking of lakehurst,' and vice versa." *(AP)*

Kidney Transplants Flourish in Pakistan

KARACHI — Hundreds of Pakistanis who have had kidney transplants flocked to a playground last weekend to deliver a message to their countrymen — donate organs to save lives.

Organizers said the event, the first of its kind in the country, marked the start of a nationwide campaign to remove a general "misconception" that kidney donation was hazardous.

Some 3,000 people have received a new lease of life in Pakistan since 1985 when transplantation was introduced in this, one of the world's largest Moslem countries.

"We want to spread awareness that it is safe to donate," said a professor in medicine, Anwer Naqvi, the main sponsor of the social campaign.

Naqvi, who teaches at the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT), said the success rate of transplants here was 87 percent and donors had been living a normal life.

On Sunday, colorfully attired men and women with transplants competed in various athletic events including jogging and javelin throwing to demonstrate their fitness to an audience of thousands of people.

The organizers plan to send a contingent to the world transplant games scheduled for September in Sydney.

Naqvi said there were around 12,000 renal failures every year in Pakistan, half of them needing transplants.

"But there are hardly enough donations," he said.

Transplant surgery is carried out at public and private hospitals in Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore. The cost is 350,000 rupees (8,750 dollars) at private hospitals and half of that at a public facility.

Naqvi said about 500 of the transplants were done at siut and they were all free of charge.

There is strong prejudice, including opposition from the Islamic clergy, against cadaveric transplants in Pakistan, for which no law has yet been enacted.

"Only kidneys are donated and that too by relatives only, whereas in cases of liver or heart only cadaveric transplanation is possible," Naqvi said.

"The body of the dead has to go back to god and nobody has the right to take an organ. It will be devil's work," a cleric Abdur Rehman said, echoing a dominant view in the religious lobby.

"We are hoping to get a legal cover and change in attitude of religious leaders about donating organs after death," local doctor Murli Lal said. Medical experts here say transplants are practised in at least 10 Moslem countries.

"It has been a new life for me. I have come here to tell both donors and recipients of kidneys (that they) can live normal lives," said Amina Mehmoud, one of the participants in the sports rally.

"I thought I would be dead seeing all my dreams shattered. Now I am studying medicine. I can play tennis like other human beings," said 19-year-old Afshan Ali.

Mohammad Rasheed Khan, the first Pakistani recipient of a kidney, said at first he thought of going to India to purchase a kidney and did not want to take it from his brother.

"But now we both are happy. I was afraid but now I tell people that organs can be transplanted. I got married and have children," said Khan. *(AFP)*

Ditch Builder Hailed as Winnipeg's Savior in Flood

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — A bespectacled 79-year-old man has become the hero of Winnipeg for ordering the construction of a massive ditch that protected the city from the area's worst flooding in 145 years.

Despite widespread opposition at the time, Charles "Duff" Roblin proposed and oversaw construction of a huge diversion channel on the Red River more than three decades ago when he was premier of Manitoba.

That once-derided decision is now being hailed as a heroic act that saved the city's 650,000 residents from devastation similar to that suffered by Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The floodway defense, dubbed Duff's ditch by his critics, has in recent days spared Winnipeg an estimated $2 billion Canadian ($1.5 billion) in damage. Completed in 1968, it cost $63 million Canadian ($47 million) to build.

"It's unimaginable what Winnipeg would look like if we didn't have the flood protection works. Everybody should write Duff a card or send him flowers," said Larry Whitney, Manitoba's chief flood engineer.

The ageing Roblin still lives in Winnipeg and has received an outpouring of thanks from city residents. Some are even suggesting a parade to honor him on his birthday on June 17.

During the crisis, thousands have gathered daily on the banks of the floodway to marvel at the surging waters.

Roblin himself flicked the switch when the floodway's massive hydraulic gates were activated this year on april 21, diverting part of the river's flow from the downtown.

The Red River swelled to 22 times its normal flow this year after record snowfalls melted. It wreaked disaster in North Dakota before submerging a vast expanse of southern Manitoba twice the size of Hong Kong.

But Manitoba's biggest city has suffered minimal damage with only 29 homes flooded, thanks in large measure to the 29-mile (47-km) floodway. The width of a city block, it parts the Red River south of the city and channels the overflow to the east.

Although the ditch has helped Winnipeg more than 19 times since it opened, this year's flood is the greatest vindication yet for Roblin's much-criticized move to build the channel.

"You can't be sure that a decision you made more than 30 years ago would turn out to be the right one. I'm sure all the decisions I made did not turn out to be the right ones, but this one did," he wrote in a local newspaper recently.

Roblin decided to build the structure after a huge flood in 1950 forced 100,000 Winnipeg residents to flee their homes, but he came in for stiff criticism over the $63 million Canadian ($47 million) price tag.

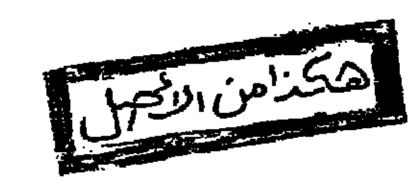
Since then it has prevented damage estimated at $5.5 billion Canadian ($4 billion) in Winnipeg, up to $2 billion Canadian ($1.5 billion) of that this year alone.

The ditch required a massive earth excavation effort that has been compared to construction of the Panama canal. It took six years to build and opened on Oct.11, 1968.

Ironically some commentators have suggested the floodway would never be built in today's era of fiscal austerity and government cuts. The cost of constructing it today would be an estimated at $350 million Canadian ($260 million).

A former air force commander who was also a successful businessman, Roblin is modest about his achievement.

Often described as shy despite his political talents, he has rebuffed calls to rename the channel the Roblin memorial floodway. "I would rather have it called Duff's ditch. That's a good name for it. Suits me fine," he told a local interviewer. *(Reuter)*



هكذا من الأصل

Young Girls Need Education, Not Work

Tehran Times Service

A UNICEF report reveals that there are countless female children working in Third World countries.

It is hoped that the International Labor Organization (ILO) will launch a new drive to eliminate child labor in the Indian Sub-Continent and neighboring countries.

The sectors, which make up a significant part of earnings in those countries, are key areas in which thousands of young children are used by employers as cheap labor.

The program should focus on diverse regions and villages in each region, and centers for weaving of rugs, where thousands of female children aged under 17 are engaged in rug weaving industry.

The program should also focus on areas where the minors are working in mechanic shops, carpenter shops, bakeries and many other industries.

Numerous juveniles are employed in workshops manufacturing diversified products. Some of them are involved in hazardous workshops where respiratory diseases and dangerous electric tools such as saws, welding instruments etc.. are being used.

The program should also investigate into how much each novice and experienced child is making and whether income is paid directly to them or not, whether the child laborer is under any kind of insurance coverage, if the employment complies with the local labor law, whether the income tax is paid and is the child worker eligible to benefit from the social security and labor ministry privileges.

Obviously, in addition to health concerns, the children's education has also been suffering with a great number being dropped out of schools, while other fraction have never gone to school..

It is quite impossible, almost inconceivable, for working female juveniles to make any effort to improve their living condition, let alone put aside some amount for the rainy days.

The fact is that the social basis in those countries particularly for working girls under 18 is still a sort of patriarchal system. Employers great and small say they know what is best for their adolescent work-people; they are in a position to dictate working and living conditions to a degree unheard of in ordinary or industrialized countries.

Female teenage employees are in a very weak position, as the high rate of unemployment and other factors make the labor so cheap. Those female teenagers who protest against private exploitation soon find themselves adrift.

It will easily be seen, therefore, that wages and other conditions are what the employers choose to make them. It would be most interesting if anyone could get so far as to investigate the fatherly custom of telling the juvenile employees that their weekly wages are, partially or fully, being 'saved up' for them, as they don't need that (much) money now, surely, and they'll get it later on.

The living-in system is common. In some cases this would mean round-the-clock exploitation. Some girls work as house-maids, and in some occasions the employer treats the maid as a slave. The young maid is not aware of her legal rights. In some cases the juveniles are being exploited in this manner not knowing that they could report the breech of labor law to the relevant authorities.





There is a wide discrepancy between official statistics and actual practice in the matter of night-work and working hours generally.

There are no effective regulations for the safeguarding of adolescent workers, even in dangerous trades. Schemes for insurance against sickness, accidents leading to fatality or casualty have been repeatedly turned down by the employers.

It is not at all likely that the conditions for children and women in carpet-weaving workshops and similar occupations will ever be revealed, if, indeed, any record is kept.

We must not forget that similar conditions are in force in the carpet producing industry — in some of the Asian countries — which is doing its bit in world-wide cheap labor competition. Once again it would be hard to get the full story. The workshops are manned by low-paid crews who are endangered by job hazards.

Furthermore, there is no life insurance policy available to the immature work force to enable the child's parents to draw the insurance.



It may be difficult, when describing conditions such as these, to avoid the appearance of ranting on behalf of the underdog. But there we have the merest outline of some of the facts which must be taken into consideration before we can make an estimate of the standard of living, of which we hear so much.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) must launch a fresh survey to find the number of child laborers under the age of 15 work in urban and rural areas of Iran. It will discover that the number is incredible.

One out of every ten paid rural workers in these areas is a child, mainly unpaid family worker and casual laborer, an ILO report revealed in a survey last year.

It says in some regions more girls are engaged in agricultural activities than boys. A portion of child workers in urban areas particularly in Tehran are employed in the formal sector, mainly in sales.

In business, children working in large cities, are paid less than the adult workers.

A large number of child workers receive lower wages than the rate prevalent in those localities.

The ILO has urged countries to design a national plan of action to combat child labor. In a report, "Child Labor: What is to Be Done?", the ILO, said "working children should not be viewed simply within the context of labor law which requires the immediate dismissal or withdrawal from work of under-age children as such action may in fact work against the children's immediate welfare."

Experts have suggested a broader approach. The plan should provide for suitable alternatives such as schools and vocational training facilities.

The problem of child labor cannot be solved overnight as it is one of the many facets of poverty and underdevelopment.

Apart from schools and vocational training facilities, the plan "should include measures against the underlying causes of child labor" and create viable income opportunities for the poor through poverty alleviation programs."

Iran is urged to conduct research and gather information on how many children are working, what they are doing, where and in what conditions.

Without such data, it is impossible to develop effective policies and programs.

The Future Is Light Brown

Tehran Times Service

By Gwynne Dyer

LONDON — Just under three-quarters of the present American population (73.1 percent) is classified as 'non-Hispanic white' by the U.S. Census Bureau. But within fifty years, it predicts, white Americans will be barely half the population (52.8 percent). 13.6 percent of Americans will be black (about the same as now), Asians will double to 8.2 percent, and most of the rest will be 'Hispanic'.

The U.S. Census Bureau is almost certainly wrong. The man who has it right is Tiger Woods, the 21-year-old golfer who electrified the United States by winning the masters tournament — and then outraged practically everybody by announcing on the Oprah Winfrey show that he does not see himself as 'black', but as 'Cablinasian'.

It's a word that describes what may be the largest American 'race' by 2050: a mixed-race group in various shades of light brown that combines the genetic heritage of most major groups on the planet. Canada promises to be an even more comprehensive mixture, and Australia and even Britain are moving in the same direction.

Woods made the word 'Cablinasian' up because he had no word to describe himself. His father had one white, one native Indian and two black grand-parents, and his mother was half Chinese, half Thai. "Growing up, I came up with this name — I'm a Cablinasian," Woods explained — a mix of Caucasian, black, Indian and Asian.

Sounds exotic. But in the heart of the 'West', it is less exotic all the time. Quite suddenly the old racial barriers have dropped, and racial inter-marriage has taken off.

In Britain, a stunning 30 percent of people of West Indian origin under the age of thirty who are married or in a long-term relationship have a white partner. And public opinion supports the change: well over two-thirds of Britons strongly disapproved of mixed marriages as recently as 1958, while now just over a quarter would object even if close relatives were involved.

The rate of inter-marriage is lower among British Asians, maybe because most of them are Muslims, Hindus or Sikhs for whom religious differences are an extra barrier to inter-marriage. But just go into the schools in big British cities and you can see the scale of the ethnic mixing that is happening — and this is in a country with only 7 percent foreign-born in its population.

In Canada, where 20 percent of the population is foreign-born, the process seems even more advanced. One Saturday night recently I stood on the corner of Robson and Howe in downtown Vancouver and watched for a quarter-hour. I estimate that between a third and a quarter of the young couples who passed by were multi-racial.

The United States has far fewer recent immigrants (only 8 percent of the population is foreign-born), and its unique past as the only industrialized country where slavery was once a major domestic institution has cursed it with an obsession about race. But even in America, the racial walls are breaking down.

Only 4 percent of U.S. marriages are inter-racial, but that bald figure conceals a huge generational shift. In the 40s and 50s, less than 2 percent of black men married white women. In the past decade, the figure has soared to nearly 10 percent. And other non-white Americans, who do not suffer the special prejudice that weighs on African-American descendants of former slaves, are now 'marrying out' at a staggering rate.

Some 60 percent of Asian-born Americans in their 20s marry somebody of another race, and nearly 70 percent of native American Indians under the age of 25 are doing the same. "In recent years the proportion of both men and women from all racial groups who 'marry out' has increased," concluded University of Michigan demographer Reynolds Farley in a study published last month.

The 'melting pot' is finally working, even in the U.S. why?

There are many previous examples of widespread racial mixing. Most people in northern India are descended for long-ago unions between Aryan (white) invaders and the darker previous inhabitants. Many West Indian 'blacks' (and most American 'blacks') actually carry the genes of former slave-owners as well as former slaves.

In South Africa there is a whole people, the Coloreds, who come from the mixing of Europeans, 'Malays' (actually Indonesians), the Bushman/Hottentot original inhabitants, and black Africans, in the early days of the Cape Colony. But all these cases of inter-marriage just led to the drawing of new distinctions, for they were all based on relationships of unequal power.

The caste system in India probably arose as a strategy for combating the racial mixing that was undermining the conquerors' cohesiveness and power — and over three thousand years later Indian newspapers still carry advertisements by people seeking spouses who are 'light' in color.

In the West Indies the class system is color-coded even more sharply: Jamaica has yet to have a prime minister who looks at all African. White America abolished the ideological embarrassment of mixed-race people by adopting the 'one drop' principle: one-eight African blood made you, not seven-eighths Europeans, but 'black'.

And the spectacularly complex ethno-cultural group that began to emerge in the Cape 300 years ago was aborted by dividing it on the crude basis of skin color: 'white' Afrikaans-speaking Protestants (who owned everything), and 'Colored' Afrikaans-speaking Protestants and Muslims (who did

(Contd. on Pg. 14)

What Is the Religious Cinema After All?

TEHRAN — The second Seminar on Religion in the Eye of the Cinema, organized by Art Bureau of Islamic Propagation Organization, wound up work a couple of weeks ago.

The picturesque presence of eminent religious scholars from theological schools across the country at a seminar to settle religious ambiguities in the cinema, was perhaps the most important event in the Iranian cinema.

Hojjatoleslam Ali Afsahi, secretary of the seminar elaborated more: Religious decrees from religious scholars have been issued on the religious ambiguities in the Iranian cinema. They are to be publicized in near future.

He went on to say: In the 2nd seminar, for the first time, two great theological schools of Qom and Mashhad discussed issues on cinema.

The presence of veteran artists in the seminar created a very warm atmosphere and paved the way for the link of religion and cinema.



In his response to a question that whether religion limits the cinema, Hojjatoleslam Afsahi said: Unfortunately the cinema, like religion, has faced misunderstandings from those unfamiliar with them. Asking questions like this, is a crystal clear example. Religion and cinema are not in contradiction with each other, rather the cinema meets new horizons when mixed with religious principles.


[illegible] Tabrizi

Rejecting the view that "cinema is the brainchild of Western civilization, so it cannot be linked with the religion," the Hojjatoleslam said: Such a view is non-practical and non-technical. There are two aspects for civilization: cultural aspect and hardware aspect. In its hardware aspect, cinema is linked with the Western civilization, not in cultural one.

He added: No doubt, after the creation of cinema, the global arrogance recognized its materialistic impact on the contemporary civilization in the West. They encouraged materiality in their productions. However, there are some films shot under the same situation, which either clearly manifest divine values, or neglect capitalistic views.

Here are some religious decrees on cinema, issued by the eminent religious scholars:

Ayatollah Haeri Shirazi:

A religious film must b produced by a religious person. It must not only pay attention to the appearance of religion. Rather it has to be on religious themes as honesty, friendship and the like. '*Where's the Friend's House*' directed by Abbas Kia Rostami is an example. You can make films on the life of the prophets, specially I recommend the life of Jesus Christ.

[illegible]

Cinematic research centers should be created in theological schools. Personally I will offer help in this regard.

[illegible]

Working for cinema, is working in the way of God, for which *Zakaat* (alms) should be considered.

Grand Ayatollah Sheikh Javad Tabrizi:

A good TV serial abstains the young generation from doing evil.

On the whole, all great religious scholars agree displaying images of the infallible Imams on screen should have no religious restrictions. And that theological students should be active in this field.

Also present in the seminar were some veteran artists who in turn elaborated on the religious cinema:

Mohammad Ali Najafi, author, architect and filmmaker defines religious cinema as 'any kind of cinema which pays attention to the metaphysics and the spirituality of human being in any way possible.'

Daryoush Arjomand, theater and cinema actor, who cast the role of Malek Ashtar in *Imam Ali* TV series, gave some words on the religious cinema:


Daryoush Arjomand in the Heavenly Land

"Principally, I believe that art is something metaphysical. Is is materialized with metaphysical feelings, emotions. Just when the artist ascends from worldly bounds, he creates his works. So we can say that art is something metaphysical, something deep linked with spirituality."

Elsewhere Arjomand said "no doubt there are some cultural gaps, some moral, ideologic and social differences" among different nations. There are common points, however, among different nations that art is a metaphysical production.

In his article on cultural interactions in the Cinema, Hojjatoleslam Salehi, head of the Khorasan General Department for Islamic Propagation and instructor and professor at Mashhad Theological School and University of Mashhad, said: In our cinema we entrapped in a chaos of [illegible]. In the Third World the cinema is not in tandem with cultural ends.

He added culture and religion enjoy various elements: Myths, religion, art, philosophy and science are the main elements of culture. There should be enough cultural exchanges on the above topics, and it's inevitable.

But religion, on the other hand, includes various elements: personal experiences, rites and rituals, etc.

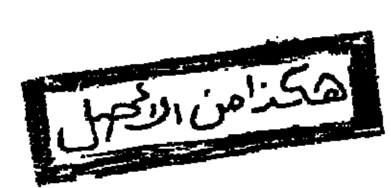
The Hojjatoleslam referred to Felini, Bregmann, and Tarkovski's works as examples of religious cinema and said: In our cinema everything is represented incomplete, superficial, and it is just an imitation.

Ali Reza Raisian, film director and member of Central Council for the Film Directors' Society; Mohammad Reza Aslani, filmmaker; Hossein Setareh cameraman and graduate of cinema; Hojjatoleslam Hasan Idaram, researcher and instructor at Qom Theological School, Nader Ebrahimi, author, Dr. Javad Azimi, philosophy professor at Mashhad University, were other lecturers in the seminar, each with an essay.

Referring to verses 27-31 (Maedeh) from the Holy Qoran, Hojjatoleslam Idaram said the said verses are on the technology of cinema, "because the first crime of human beings has been expressed in the verses like a documentary feature film. This shows that the nature of humanity and human beings goes well with the religious cinema."

"Art and religion both look for addressees, on whom they rely their effectiveness. Thinkers should go toward art and cinema or else each will go their own way," said Dr. Azimi.

Daryoush Arjomand



هكذا من الأصل

International Spectrum
A Glance at International Events

TEHRAN TIMES
Tehran Times Weekend Issue
THU. MAY 8, 1997; ORDIBEHESHT 18, 1376; MOHARRAM 1, 1418

Iran Spectrum
A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

WORLD IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, April 29

Russia-Chechnya Peace in Danger After Bomb Attack

The fragile Russian-Chechen peace process was plunged into crisis after both sides accused each other of orchestrating a bloody rail station bomb attack.

U.S. Summons Israeli FM on Peace Process

The United States has called Foreign Minister David Levy for talks in Washington on deadlocked Palestinian peace process.

S. Korea Agrees on Beijing Venue for Red Cross Talks

South Korea accepted North Korea's choice of Beijing as the venue for proposed inter-Korean Red Cross talks on food aid, officials said, as aid agencies warned famine was now a reality in the North.

Wednesday, April 30

Death Toll in China Train Crash Rises to 65



The death toll in the train collision in central-south China's Hunan Province has risen to 65, with 290 injured, a local government official said.

Sri Lanka Goes on Red Alert ahead of May Day

Security has been tightened in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo ahead of May Day rallies organized by dozens of political parties and trade unions, officials said.

Tajik President Injured in Hand Grenade Attack

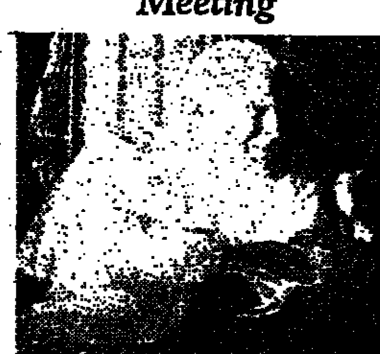
Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov was injured when a lone assailant hurled a hand grenade at him and his entourage in Khodzhent, a town in northern Tajikistan, a presidential spokesman said.

Thursday, May 1

Iraqi Kurd Rivals Reach Peace Accord in Tehran

Leaders of rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq, Kurdistan Islamic Movement (KIM) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), have reached a general peace agreement after a flare-up in fighting.

Coptic Pope Arrives in Syria for Church Meeting



Coptic Pope Shenouda III arrived in Syria to meet with church leaders to discuss Jerusalem, relations with Muslims and the unity of Middle Eastern churches.

Turkey to Import Gas From Iran, Turkmenistan

Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Recai Kutan said in Ankara that Ankara would make use of Iran and Turkmenistan's natural gas from 1999 once pipelines were laid down for transfer of the fuel.

Friday, May 2

Blair Promises Government to Unite Britain



Britain's new Prime Minister Tony Blair, savouring a stunning landslide victory, promised his Labor government would unite the nation after 18 years of Conservative rule.

Turkish PM Gives Brass the Slip for Friday Prayers

Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan underscored his independence from the secularist military, breaking away from an official air force ceremony to perform Muslim noon prayers.

Albright Ends Talks With Primakov on NATO Enlargement

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright held more than two hours of unscheduled talks with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, aimed at narrowing their differences over NATO enlargement.

Saturday, May 3

South Africa Says Zaire Talks to Go Ahead



South Africa said a delayed seaborne summit between Zaire's ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko and rebel leader Laurent Kabila would take place later in the day.

Turkish Minister Vows to Close Down Islamic Centers

Turkey's interior minister vowed to close down thousands of Islamic education centers in a military-inspired crackdown against religious activism, Anatolian news agency said.

Arafat Calls For World Intervention to Save Peace Process

Yasser Arafat called on President Clinton and the world community to save the deteriorating peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

Sunday, May 4

30,000 Demonstrate Against U.S. Sanctions

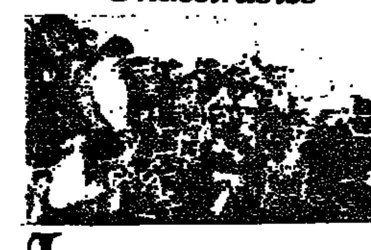
An estimated 30,000 members of a Burmese government-sponsored Mass Movement held a demonstration against a U.S. decision two weeks ago to clamp economic sanction on Burma.

Monday, May 5

No Agreement in Korean Food Talks, but Both Sides Still Optimistic

Red Cross delegated from rival North and South Korea broke off talks on direct delivery of growing food aid to the starving North without agreement, but promised further negotiations.

Italy Repatriates 180 Albanian "Undesirables"





Italy sent home 180 Albanians, classified as "undesirables", just hours after they arrived on a boat packed with more than 1,000 refugees at the southern port of Bari, coastguards said.

Kabila Gives Mobutu Eight Days to Leave or Be Pushed Out





Zaire's rebel leader told Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko he "perishes with his power" or hands over control of the country in eight days.

IRAN IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, April 29

Velayati Opens 7th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said that Iran is ready to contribute to implementation of joint venture projects in the region.

President Inaugurates ECO Ministerial Meeting

The ECO is capable of rendering appropriate services to its member states, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said, calling on ECO member states to make decisive decision to materialize the organization's key objectives.

Wednesday, April 30

EU Embarked on a Childish Game

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran had long ago stopped critical dialog with the member states of the European Union (EU).

Return of EU Envoys to Tehran, Major Setback for U.S.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said the return of EU ambassadors to Tehran is considered a major defeat for the U.S. foreign policy.

Thursday, May 1

President Inaugurates Shahid Rajaie Dam



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inaugurated the giant Shahid Rajaie dam, irrigation network and Tajan diversion dam, in Sari, Mazandaran Province.

1st Coronary, Heart Diseases Congress Inaugurated

The First Mediterranean Congress for Prevention of Heart and Coronary Diseases and the 10th annual Heart and Coronary Artery Congress was inaugurated in Isfahan with President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's message read by Health Minister Ali Reza Marandi.

Friday, May 2

Next Century, Century of Islam

Provisional Friday Prayer leader of Tehran Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati said that the next century would be the century of Islam.

Saturday, May 3

People's Participation in Elections Crucial



The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei highlighted the importance of people's participation in the presidential elections and called on the ulema and the preachers to guide people to elect the most qualified candidate for the post.

President Appreciates Teachers' Services

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani appreciated the services being rendered by Iranian teachers.

Sunday, May 4

Iran, China Call for Expansion of Ties



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received Chinese Vice-Premier Li Lanqing and told him that close cooperation between Iran and China as two great powers of the region will help maintain stability in the region.

Leader Visits Tehran Int'l Book Fair



The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, paid a three-hour visit to the 10th Tehran International Book Fair.

Monday, May 5

Velayati Arrives in Cairo

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Cairo on the first leg of his four Arab-nation tour, which will also take him to Lebanon, Yemen and Syria.

Why We Love Who We Love?

Have you ever known a married couple that just didn't seem as though they should fit together — yet they are both happy in the marriage, and you can't figure out why?

I know of one couple: He is a burly ex-athlete who, in addition to being a successful salesman, coached Little League, was active in his Rotary Club and played golf every Saturday with friends. Meanwhile, his wife is petite, quiet and a complete homebody. She doesn't even like to go out to dinner.

What mysterious force drives us into the arms of one person, while pushing us away from another who might appear equally desirable to any unbiased observer?

Of the many factors influencing our idea of the perfect mate, one of the most telling, according to John Money, professor emeritus of medical psychology and pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University, is what he calls our "lovemap" — a group of messages encoded in our brains that describes our likes and dislikes. It shows our preferences in hair and eye color, in voice, smell, body build. It also records the kind of personality that appeals to us, whether it's the warm and friendly type or the strong, silent type.

In short, we fall for and pursue those people who most clearly fit our lovemap. And this lovemap is largely determined in childhood. By age eight, the pattern for our ideal mate has already begun to float around in our brains.

When I lecture, I often ask couples in the audience what drew them to their dates or mates. Answers range from "She's strong and independent" and "I go for redheads" to "I love his sense of humor" and "That crooked smile, that's what did it."

I believe what they say. But I also know that if I were to ask those same men and women to describe their mothers, there would be many similarities between their ideal mates and their moms. Yes, our mothers — the first real love of our lives — write a significant portion of our lovemap.

When we're little, our mother is the center of our attention, and we are the center of hers. So our mother's characteristics leave an indelible impression, and we are forever after attracted to people with her facial features, body type, personality, even sense of humor. If our mother was warm and giving. If our mother was strong and even tempered, we are going to be attracted to a fair-minded strength in our mates.

The mother has an additional influence on her sons: she not only gives them slues to what they will find attractive in a mate, but also affects how they feel about women in general. So if she is warm and nice, her sons are going to think that's the way women and responsive lovers and also be cooperative around the house.

Conversely, a mother who has a depressive personality, and is sometimes friendly but then suddenly turns cold and rejecting, may raise a man who becomes a "dance-away lover." Because he's been so scared about love from his mother, he is afraid of commitment and may pull away from a woman for this reason.

While the mother determines in large part what qualities attract us in a mate, it's the father — the first male in our lives — who influences how we relate to the opposite sex. Fathers have an enormous effect on their children's personalities and chances of marital happiness.

Just as mothers influence their son's general feelings toward women, fathers influence their daughter's general feelings about men. If a father lavishes praise on his daughter and demonstrates that she is a worthwhile person, she'll feel very good about herself in relation to men. But if the father is cold, critical or absent, the daughter will tend to feel she's not very lovable or attractive.

What about opposites? Are they really attracted to each other? Yes and no. In many ways we want a mirror image of ourselves. Physically attractive people, for example, are usually drawn to a partner who's equally attractive.

In addition, most of us grow up with people of similar social circumstances. We hang around with people in the same town; our friends have about the same educational backgrounds and career goals. We tend to be most comfortable with these people, and therefore we tend to link up with others whose families are often much like our own.

Robert Winch, a longtime sociology professor at Northwestern University, stated in his research that our choice of a marriage partner involves a number of social similarities. But he also maintained that we look for someone with complementary needs. A talker is attracted to someone who likes to listen, or an aggressive personality may seek out a more passive partner.

It's rather like the old, but perceptive, saying on the subject of marriage that advises future partners to make sure that the holes in one's head fit the bumps in the other's. Or, as Winch observed, it's the balancing out of sociological likenesses and psychological differences that seems to point the way for the most solid lifelong romance.

However, there are instances where people of different social backgrounds end up getting married and being extremely happy. I know of one man, a factory worker from a traditional Irish family in Chicago, who fell in love with an African-American Baptist. When they got married, their friends and relatives predicted a quick failure. But 25 years later, the marriage is still strong.

It turns out that the woman was like her mother-in-law—a loving and caring person, the type who rolls up her sleeves and volunteers to work at church or help out people in need. This is the quality that her husband fell for, and it made color and religion and any other social factors irrelevant to him.

Or as George Burns, who was Jewish Allen, used to say: his marriage was his favorite gig, even though it was Gracie who got all the laughs. The two of them did share certain social similarities — both grew up in the city, in large but poor families. Yet what really drew them together was evident from the first time they went on stage together. They complemented each other perfectly: he was the straight man, and she delivered the punch lines.

There are certainly such "odd couples" who could scarcely be happier. We all know some drop-dead beautiful person married to an unusually plain wallflower. This is a trade-off some call the equity theory.

When men and women possess a particular asset, such as high intelligence, unusual beauty, a personality that makes others swoon, or a hefty bankroll that has the same effect, some decide to trade their assets for someone else's strong points. The raging beauty may trade her luster for the power and security that come with big bucks. The not-so-talented fellow from a good family may but brilliantly talented mate.

Indeed, almost any combination can survive and thrive. Once, some neighbors of mine stopped by for a friendly social engagement. During the evening Robert, a man in his 50s, suddenly blurted out, "What would you say if your daughter planned to marry someone who has a ponytail and insisted in doing the cooking?

"Unless your daughter loves cooking," I responded, "I'd say she was darn lucky."

"Exactly," his wife agreed. "It's really your problem, Robert — that old macho thing rearing its head again. The point is, they're in love."

I tried to reassure Robert, pointing out that the young man their daughter had picked out seemed to be a relaxed, nonjudgmental sort of person — a trait he shared with her own mother.

Is there such a thing as love at first sight? Why not? When people become love-struck, what happens in that instant is the couple probably discovers a unique something they have in common. It could be something as mundane as they both were reading the same book or were born in the same town. At the same time they recognize some trait in the other that complements their own personality.

I happen to be one of those who was struck by the magic wand. On that fateful weekend, while I was a sophomore at Cornell University, I had a terrible cold and hesitated to join my family on vacation in the Catskill Mountains. Finally I decided anything would be better than sitting alone in my dormitory room.

That night as I was preparing to go to dinner, my sister rushed up the stairs and said, "When you walk into that dining room, you're going to meet the man you'll marry."

I think I said something like "Buzz off!" But mu sister couldn't have been more right. I *knew* it from the moment I saw him, and the memory still gives me goose flesh. He was a premed student, also at Cornell, who incidentally also had a bad cold. I fell in love with Milton the instant I met him.

Milt and I were married for 3[illegible] years, until his death in 1989. And all that time we experienced a love that Eric Fromm called a "feeling of fusion, of oneness," even while we both continued to change, grow and fulfill our lives.

(Courtesy the Reader's Digest)

Entertaining in Style

Corn and Ham Flan

You will need...	6 oz. short crust pastry
	1 small tin evaporated milk
	1 oz. plain flour
Preparation time 20 minutes	2 oz. butter
	1 small onion
	3 oz. ham, diced
Cooking time 30 minutes	7 oz. can corn
	1 teaspoon mustard
Oven setting 400°F; gas mark 6	salt and pepper
	3 oz. grated cheese
	few sprigs parsley

Line an 8-inch flan ring with the pastry. Trim the edges and bake blind for 20 minutes. Allow to cool. Make the milk up to $\frac{1}{2}$ pint with water. Whisk in flour and add half the butter. Bring to the boil, stirring until thickened.

Chop the onion finely and fry in remaining butter until soft. Add to the mixture with the ham and drained corn, mustard, salt and pepper. Mix well.

Pour into prepared flan case, sprinkle with cheese and grill until browned. Serve cold, garnished with parsley.

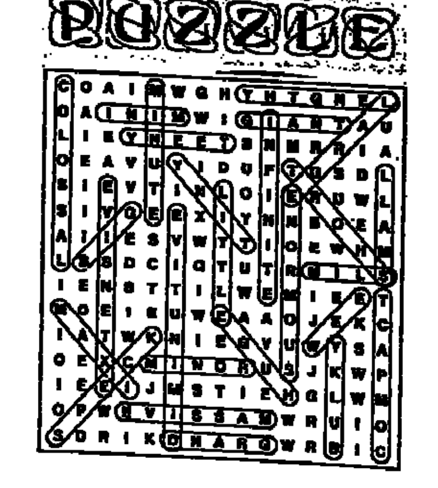
Serves 4.

To prevent the pastry from stretching, wrap it round a floured rolling pin. Then lift up and place gently into flan case. It will unroll very easily into place.

How Many Sorts of Memory Does Our Brain Operate?

Three are generally recognized: episodic (specific events such as what you had for dinner); semantic (generalized knowledge not connected to any one instance of learning); and procedural or skill (how you ride a bike, etc.)

Answer to Last Week's Puzzle

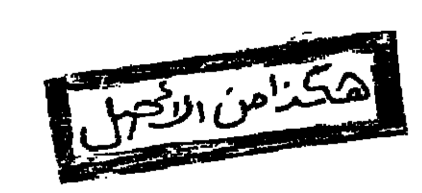




SUGAR AND SPICE

C	O	E	I	S	W	L	N	O	M	A	N	N	I	C
L	C	I	R	E	M	R	U	T	W	R	I	A	C	P
O	W	R	I	E	U	A	C	I	L	E	G	N	A	I
V	M	W	Y	R	S	I	E	L	W	R	I	R	R	O
E	A	I	J	A	G	R	I	E	O	W	S	V	A	I
S	R	I	G	G	O	D	W	T	R	L	I	A	W	O
D	J	E	I	U	O	E	L	W	E	I	C	N	A	I
Y	O	I	P	S	R	A	I	Y	G	I	H	I	Y	O
R	R	I	A	P	S	W	R	B	A	S	I	L	W	D
A	A	I	E	G	E	M	T	U	N	W	V	L	L	R
M	M	S	T	I	I	P	H	J	O	E	E	A	E	A
E	I	S	X	N	M	R	Y	S	T	I	S	U	N	T
S	W	E	T	I	E	U	M	S	T	I	A	U	N	S
O	U	S	D	W	E	R	E	G	N	I	G	W	E	U
R	I	E	U	S	E	S	I	N	A	I	E	U	F	M

ANGELICA, ANISE, BASIL, CARAWAY, CHIVES, CINNAMON, CLOVES, DILL
FENNEL, GINGER, MARJORAM, MINT, MUSTARD, NUTMEG, OREGANO, PARSLEY
PEPPER, ROSEMARY, SAGE, SALT, SUGAR, THYME, TURMERIC, VANILLA



Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: Indonesia

A Poem in Stone

Built in a period of 70 years, the awesome monument is a symbol of spirituality that has withstood the ravages of time and weather.

Borobodur, the prodigious Buddhist monument standing against the paddy fields of Kedu in Java is a blend of Hindu, Buddhist and ethnic Javanese architecture. It has the look of being set apart in time and thought even though it stands against the glowing green of the paddy fields on the fertile plain.

The statistics of the monument are awesome: over two million blocks of stone with a total volume of 55,000 cu mts, each stone weighing about 100 kgs, stone carved panels which if set end to end would measure over five kms, 1472 stupas, 432 life-sized statues of the Buddha made of single blocks of stone, and 72 other Buddha statues in stupas encircling the main stupa.

Historians estimate that it must have taken 70 years to build it with hundreds of men toiling to carry the huge blocks of stone quaried from the rivers, hauling them up the hill and juxtaposing them so that they fit—without mortar. And the carvings which must have been executed by different artists and sculptors have a finesse and sym-

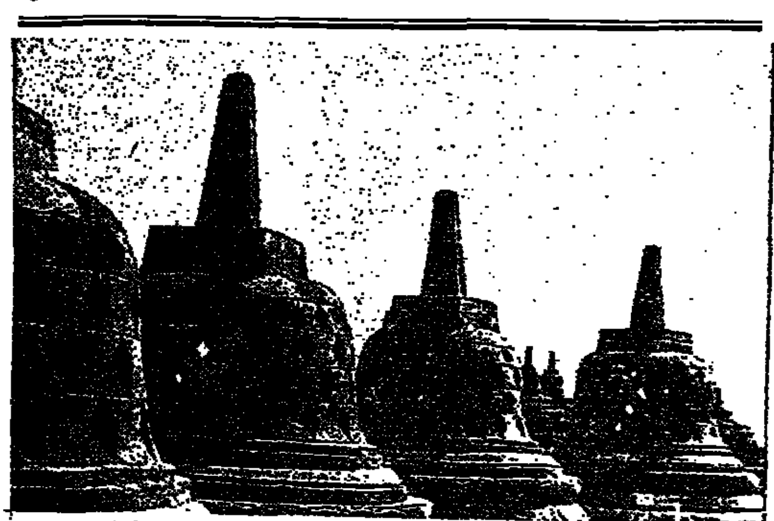


The ornate gateway to the monument.

bolism which speak of intense commitment, not to talk of artistry.

The story of the monument is equally mysterious. It reveals the Javanese-Hindu and Buddhist influences which shaped the region at that point of time, and the lingering vestiges which remain. It was built around 760 A.D. probably on a square foundation begun by Hindus on which it was superimposed. It is a blend of Hindu, Buddhist and ethnic Javanese architecture and a representation of the Hindu and Buddhist influences which existed in Indonesia. Completed around 830 A.D., it was abandoned for a thousand years until it was discovered again in 1814 when a Dutch engineer cleared overgrowth to get to the concealed monument. In a way, the vegetation and volcanic ash from the surrounding mountains helpted preserve the monument.

It is constructed on a small hill in concentric terraces of decreasing size soaring like steps to the central peak in the form of a huge stupa. The Hindu influence is evident in the square base and in the stories depicted on the carved panels, and the mythological figures of the *kinnaras*, which are half-human and half-bird and the *kala makaras*, monsters representing time and its transcience. The latter form the top of ornate gateways so that when one gets to the top it looks as if he is approaching the jaws of these monsters.



Stupas resembling inverted lotus blossoms.

Climbing the Borobodur is a pilgrimage in itself. The galleries on the terraces have reliefs rich in expression and magnitude as though every phase of life was represented. The galleries, after all, are a representation of all that is associated with Buddha—his life, teachings and the Jataka tales.

There is the birth of the Buddha showing Mahamaya, his mother, with a white elephant nearby, scenes from his childhood and marriage, scenes of old age, disease and death which caused him to give up his life of princely pleasure, the demons of Mara trying to distract him, and the attainment of enlightenment. The Jataka tales which detail the previous reincarnations of the Buddha in the form of birds and animals are charming.

As one climbs higher and higher more and more pictures unfold on the walls with a wealth of detail. According to a guide, three spiritual phases are represented here: the base which was *kamadhatu* or world of passion and the transcience of temporal life; and *arupadhatu* or the attainment of nirvana right at the top.

As one reaches the top one will see, just below the peak, 72 stupas like inverted lotus blossoms with square and diamond-shaped lattices through which light filters in dappling the insides. Most of the Buddhas inside are missing, but there is one where the top of the stupa had been removed—a complete perfect Buddha gleaming in the sunlight, with an expression of ineffable peace.

At the top is a huge stupa, but the Buddha inside is missing. Some say there was a 13-tiered parasol on a tall spire whose outline was supposed to resemble the profile of Gunadharma, the alleged architect.

The Borobodur symbolizes different things to different people. To some it is Mount Meru, the holy mount of the Hindus (the Sailendras who built it consider their name to mean "lords of the mountain"); some consider it a symbol of a spiritual whole. Yet this monument which is 200 years older than the Notre Dame, and was built at the auspicious junction of two rivers, was abandoned for a long, long time, probably due to a shift in power. It has come into its own again, having gone through various restorations, the last being as late as the 1980s.

As the Borobodur stands magnificent among paddy fields, one cannot help but experience the ineffable peace that is associated with the Buddha. (Courtesy of *The Hindu* magazine, weekly edition, march 23, 1997.)



The complete Buddha with the expression of ineffable peace.

Answers to last week's WHAT'S WHERE:

1-J, 2-I, 3-N, 4-T, 5-R, 6-D, 7-C, 8-E, 9-G, 10-K, 11-P, 12-A, 13-H, 14-M, 15-F, 16-L, 17-B, 18-S, 19-Q, 20-O.

Travelogue

Gorgan the Beautiful

Gorgan, with an area of 2,880 sq kms, is located east of the Caspian Sea province of Mazandaran and north of the Alborz mountains. It resembles a triangle with its vertex in the north and base in the south. Its eastern side lies along the city of Aliabad-e Katoul and its western side Bandar Turkoman and Kord Kouy. In the south its neighbors are the cities of Shahroud and Damghan and the Shahkouh highland. It is connected to the capital city Tehran through the mountainous Haraz road passing through the cities of Amol, Babol, Qaem Shahr, Sari and Behshahr. The road is 386 kms long.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The city is divided into two sections: mountainous and plain. The highland is in the southern sector of the city; major peaks are the 3,767-meter high Shah Kouh, the 3,940-meter high Qaleh Shah and the 2,875-meter high Ahr Kouh in the south. The plain which is in the north of the city is the extension of the vast Gorgan plain.

CLIMATE

The city has a moderate Caspian climate. Compared to other parts of the Caspian Sea province of Gilan and Mazandaran, it has relatively less annual rainfall (600mm). Lower humidity prolongs duration of heat leading to warmer climate in summer and more lower-than-zero temperatures in winter.

BRIEF HISTORY

According to some historians, part of Gorgan was under the control of the Medians and major settlements were under the Achaemenians. The Gorganese were among the most elite members of the Imperial Guard of King Darius I. Under the Sassanids fortifications were built around the area to prevent intrusion of hostile northern tribes and old walls around the area were repaired and reinforced.

Following the advent of Islam Gorgan was conquered in 22 A.H. by Sweid Ibn-Moghren (according to Ibn-Assir Gorgan was conquered by Sa'ad Ibn-Aes during the rule of the Ottomans in 30 A.H.). In 211 and 212 A.H. Gorgan was ruled by Abdullah Ibn-Tahir.

Gorgan and Tabarestan were conquered by Toghrol in 433 A.H. Under Sultan Takesh, and on his behalf, the house of Kaboud Jameh ruled over the area. The city, like many other Iranian cities, was destroyed and reduced to ruins by the Mongols and its inhabitants migrated to Estrabad and settled there.

In 1020 A.H. Shah Abbas Safavid traveled to Mazandaran and built the Mubarak-Abad castle. He later settled the Qajar tribe in this area. The castle could not house all the tribesmen so they settled in two sides of the city. Estrabad remained under their control till the fall of the Safavid Dynasty. Under the Safavids, Estrabad was called Dar Al-Moumeenin (house of believers). This was because many of those whose roots could be traced to Prophet Mohammad (S) inhabited the region.

After the Safavid Dynasty, Gorgan came under the rule of Nader Shah of the Afshar Dynasty. Repeated attacks of Turkomans prompted Nader Shah to give orders for the building of fortifications around the city which resembled a castle on top of which chariots and cannons were on patrol. For every 500 meters a dirt tower surrounded by a vast ditch was erected.

In old times, Gorgan had five gates; Bastam in the east, Chechel Dokhtaran in the south, Mazandaran in the west, Sabz Mashhad or Foujoud in the north and Denkoudian in Sabz Mashhad.

Houses had high walls and heavy doors which turned them into impenetrable fortresses in the face of lightning attacks of the Turkomans. After the Turkomans settled in the area in 1364, the fortresses and towers were brought down and the ditches were filled up.

Now Gorgan is a thriving city with wide boulevards and streets, beautiful and green parks. The newly built high-rise buildings, large squares and major company offices speak of an active and booming economy.

MAIN HISTORICAL SITES

Tourang Hill

In the Tourang Tapeh region, 17 kms east of Gorgan, there is a 30-meter high hill which was excavated by the French archaeologist Jan Dehe between 1967-1972. His discoveries proved that this part belonged to the millenium between the Sassanids and Timurian eras. The main discovery was a Sassanid castle belonging to the period between the third and fifth centuries. The castle is a round area built by clay bricks at the time of the Parthians. What remains of it now is a tower in the northern sector and a 50-meter long wall with oval-shaped towers.



Gorgan's breathtaking forests and plains.

Iskandar Barrier or Defense Wall

The Defense Wall of Gorgan, known also as Iskandar or Anoushiravan Barrier, is one of the most important historical sites of the Gorgan plain. The 155-km-long wall is built from the eastern side of the Caspian Sea, the Khajeh Nafas region, and passes through the northern edge of Gonbad Kavous, stretches northwest and joins the Pishkami mountains. The history books of the Islamic era attribute the wall to the time of Firouz Sassanid or Khosrow I. However, according to archaeologists, the wall dates back to the Parthian era. The wall was restored during the Sassanid Dynasty. (To be cont'd)

Brain Teaser

WHO'S WHO

Match the descriptions listed below with the names of people who have featured prominently in recent news stories.

1. President of Tajikistan who was recently the target of an assassination attempt.
2. Russian commander who was relieved of his post by President Yeltsin.
3. Russian foreign minister.
4. Pakistan's newly appointed foreign minister.
5. Britain's former prime minister popularly known as the "Iron Lady."
6. Britain's new prime minister.
7. Whitewater prosecutor investigating charges against President & Mrs. Clinton.
8. United Nations secretary-general.
9. Peruvian president who featured prominently in a hostage-taking crisis.
10. President of Zaire who held talks at sea with a rebel leader.
11. U.S. Federal Commission chairman considered the next most powerful man in the U.S. after Pres. Clinton.
12. Australian ambassador to the UN who replaces Rolf Ekeus as head of the UN Commission monitoring Iraq's compliance with conditions for disarmament.

A. Kofi Annan
B. Alberto Fujimori
C. Mobutu Sese Seko
D. Alan Greenspan
E. Richard Butler
F. Imamoli Rakhmanov
G. Alexandr Lebed
H. Yevgeny Primakov
I. Shamshed Ahmad
J. Maragret Thatcher
K. Tony Blair
L. Kenneth Starr

(Answers next week)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1984 — The Thames Barrier in London, constructed to stem the flow of the tidal river and prevent flooding, was officially opened.

1988 — Robert Heinlein, one of America's most prolific writers whose science fiction classics included "Stranger in a Strange Land", died.

1989 — Janos Kadar, the architect of modern Hungary, was dropped from his ceremonial post of Communist Party president and from his post on the policy-making central committee of the party.

1990 — Cardinal Tomas O Fiaich, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, died during a pilgrimage to the French *"shrine of lourdes."*

1990 — The Estonian Parliament voted to change the country's name to Republic of Estonia from the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic.

1995 — French President-Elect Jacques Chirac began a symbolic takeover of power to meet world leaders celebrating VE-Day in Paris.

1995 — Germans and leaders of the main wartime allies who defeated them 50 years ago sat side by side in Berlin to honor the dead of the World War II.

1996 — South Africa's Constitutional Assembly adopted the country's permanent post-Apartheid constitution.

1996 — Former Nazi SS Captain Erich Priebke went on trial in Rome charged with involvement in the killing of 335 men and boys in Italy's worst World War II atrocity.

The Lines on Your Palms



"Why are there lines on your palms if not to tell the future?" asks the palmist. "What other purpose can they serve?"

The skin of the palm has to be taut. If the skin is as loose as on the outer side of the hand, you will not be able to grasp things well. They will slip out easily from your hands. The skin of the palm remains taut because it is attached at various points to a sheet of fibrous tissue lying beneath it. As the skin is drawn inwards at those points, creases or lines form on the upper surface.

These lines which we call Life Line, Head Line, Fate Line and so on, have not been put there to serve any purpose. They are the result of the pinning of the skin to the underlying tissue.

The only lines on the palm that are useful to us, are the small lines called papillary ridges which are present all over the palm but are prominent at the fingertips. The patterns or prints these lines form are unique to each person and can be used to identify the person.

CANDID CAMERA

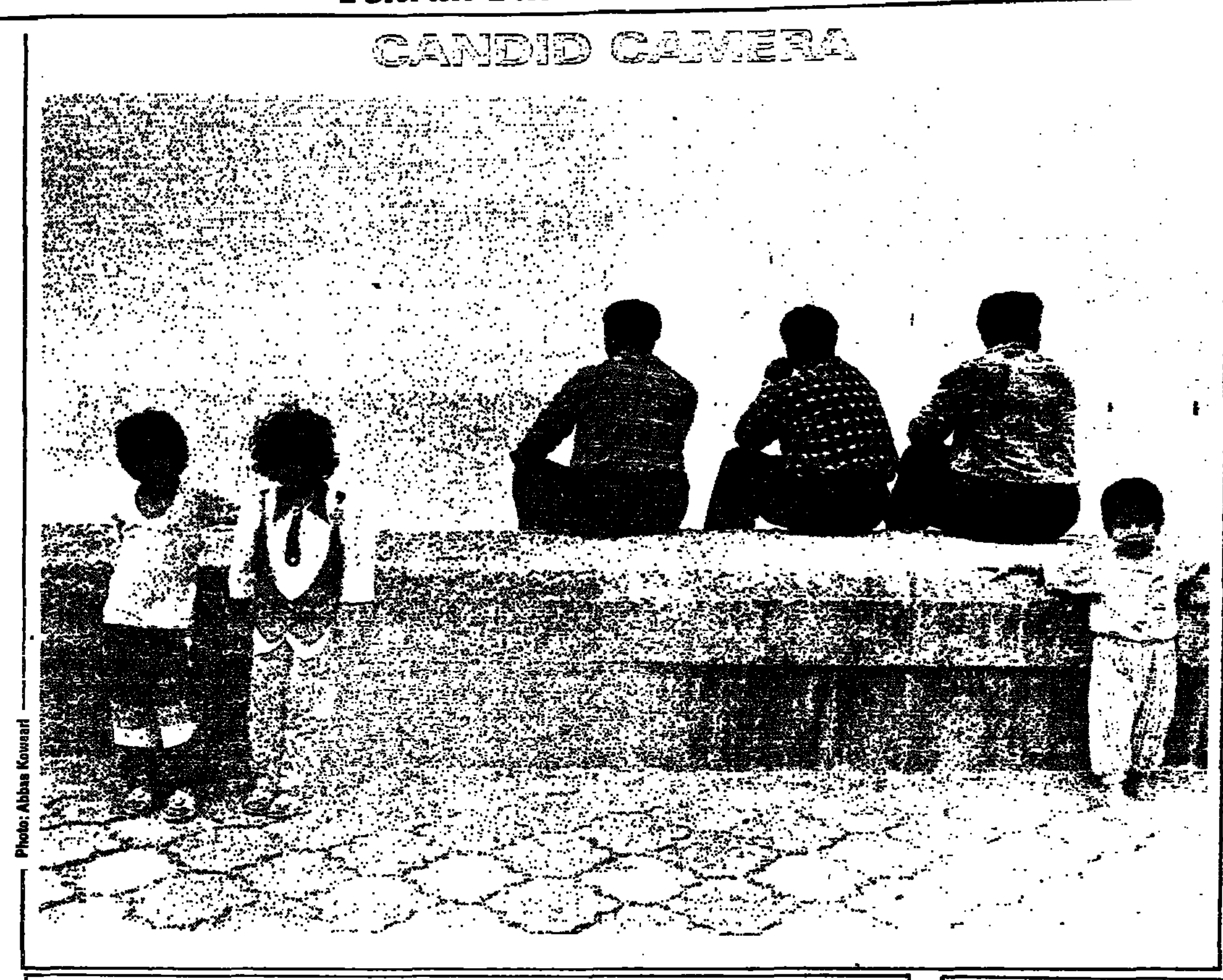


Photo: Abbas Kowsari

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1947 — Henry Gordon Selfridge, founder of Selfridge's Department Store in London, died.

1967 — India's Vice President Zakir Hussain is named president of India, becoming first Muslim to hold that office.

1968 — U.S. and North Vietnamese negotiators assemble in Paris for preliminary Vietnam peace talks.

1973 — United Nations report says world no longer has enough grain reserves for buffer against major crop failures.

1970 — Bullet-riddled body of Italy's former prime minister Aldo Moro is found in parked car in central Rome, 34 days after his abduction.

1987 — Polish jetliner bound for New York crashes into forest outside Warsaw, killing all 183 people aboard.

1989 — Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) officially requests membership in UNESCO (United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Test Your English

Each sentence below contains ONE mistake. Rewrite the sentences, correcting the mistakes.

1. I was about leaving my flat when I heard a loud bang.

....

2. I quickly turned back and saw a bright flash.

....

3. Someone had exploded my flat!

....

4. I immediately phoned to the fire brigade.

....

5. As soon as they arrived, they looked at my flat astonishedly.

....

6. It was over two hours before the flames had extinguished.

....

7. They asked me why had someone tried to kill me.

....

8. I didn't know who was capable to do such a terrible thing.

....

9. The police were extremely convinced that whoever it was would try to do it again.

....

10. Consequently, I decided to go and stay with my best friend in Newport instead to go to my office in Bridgetown.

....

ANSWER KEY

1. I was about to leave my flat when I heard a loud bang.
2. I quickly turned round and saw a bright flash.
3. Someone had blown up my flat!
4. I immediately phoned the fire brigade.
5. As soon as they arrived, they looked at my flat in astonishment.
6. It was over two hours before the flames were/had been extinguished.
7. They asked me why someone had tried to kill me.
8. I didn't know who was capable of doing such a terrible thing.
9. The police were absolutely/totally convinced that whoever it was would try to do it again.
10. Consequently, I decided to go and stay with my best friend in Newport instead of going to my office in Bridgetown.

Stunning Ideas for Making Greeting Cards

PEEPING FLOWERS



Windows open to reveal flowers cut from wrapping paper which could also wrap a gift. Cut glossy green card 22 by 15cm (8½ by 6in). Score and fold 11cm (4¼in). Cut a 4cm (1½in) equilateral triangle template. Open card flat and on the inside front draw four triangles. With steel ruler and craft knife cut two sides of triangles and score third.

Cut a piece of white paper the same size as the closed card and lay it under the card front. Open up windows and draw the triangles through the windows. These will be your guides for sticking on the pieces of flowered paper. Mark top left-hand corner of inside of card and paper with a cross. Cut out four triangles of flowers.

Glue flower triangles on paper where marked in pencil. Place a line of glue along all four edges on front of paper and attach face down on inside front of card. Open up the windows and you will see peeping flowers.

ECO Summit ... Turkmen...

Pakistani PM Leaves After Successful Talks



